



J. Hall Sculp.

Printed for John Bell near Exeter Exchange Strand London Mar. 1st 1777.



Edwards del.

Printed for John



L. Hall Sculp.

Printed for John Bell near Exeter Exchange Strand London Mar. 1st 1777.



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BELL'S EDITION
The POETS of GREAT BRITAIN
COMPLETE, FROM
CHAUCER to CHURCHILL.



*Cui mens diviniior atque os
 Magna sonaturum, des nominis
 hujus honorem.*

Edwards del.

F. Hall Sculp.

Printed for John Bell near Exeter Exchange Strand London March 1st 1777.



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THE
POETICAL WORKS
OF
JOHN MILTON.

FROM
THE TEXT OF DR. NEWTON.

IN FOUR VOLUMES.

WITH THE LIFE OF THE AUTHOR,

AND A
CRITIQUE ON PARADISE LOST,

BY JOSEPH ADDISON, ESQ.

VOL. II.

EDINBURG:

AT THE Apollo Press, BY THE MARTINS.

Anno 1776.

POETICAL WORKS
OF
JOHN MILTON

THE LATE LORD BISHOP OF LONDON



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A POEM IN TWELVE BOOKS.

THE AUTHOR

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Cedite Romani scriptores, cedite Græci! Propert.

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PARADISE LOST.

BOOK VI.

The Argument.

Raphael continues to relate how Michael and Gabriel were sent forth to battle against Satan and his angels. The first fight describ'd: Satan and his powers retire under night: he calls a council, invents devilish engines, which in the second day's fight put Michael and his angels to some disorder: but they at length pulling up mountains overwhelm'd both the force and machines of Satan: yet the tumult not so ending, God on the third day sends Messiah his Son, for whom he had reserv'd the glory of that victory: he in the power of his Father coming to the place, and causing all his legions to stand still on either side, with his chariot and thunder driving into the midst of his enemies, pursues them unable to resist towards the wall of Heaven; which opening, they leap down with horror and confusion into the place of punishment prepar'd for them in the Deep: Messiah returns with triumph to his Father.

ALL night the dreadful angel unpursued
Through Heav'n's wide champain held his way; till
Wak'd by the circling Hours, with rosy hand [Morn,
Unbarr'd the gates of Light. There is a cave
Within the mount of God, fast by his throne, 5
Where light and darkness in perpetual round
Lodge and dislodge by turns, which makes thro' Heav'n
Grateful vicissitude, like day and night;
Light issues forth, and at the other door
Obsequious Darkness enters, till her hour 10
To veil the Heav'n, though darkness there might well
Seem twilight here: and now went forth the Morn
Such as in highest Heav'n, array'd in gold

Empyrean; from before her vanish'd Night,⁴
 Shot through with orient beams; when all the plain
 Cover'd with thick imbattel'd squadrons bright, 16
 Chariots and flaming arms, and fiery steeds
 Reflecting blaze on blaze, first met his view:
 War he perceiv'd, war in procinct, and found
 Already known what he for news had thought 20
 To have reported: gladly then he mix'd
 Among those friendly powers, who him receiv'd
 With joy and acclamations loud, that one,
 That of so many myriads fall'n, yet one
 Return'd not lost: on to the Sacred Hill 25
 They led him high applauded, and present
 Before the seat supreme; from whence a voice
 From midst a golden cloud thus mild was heard.

Servant of God, well done, well hast thou fought
 The better fight, who single hast maintain'd 30
 Against revolted multitudes the cause
 Of truth, in word mightier than they in arms;
 And for the testimony' of truth hast borne
 Universal reproach, far worse to bear
 Than violence; for this was all thy care 35
 To stand approv'd in sight of God, though worlds
 Judg'd thee perverse: the easier conquest now
 Remains thee, aided by this host of friends,
 Back on thy foes more glorious to return
 Than scorn'd thou didst depart, and to subdue 40
 By force, who reason for their law refuse,

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Right reason for their law, and for their king
Messiah, who by right of merit reigns.
Go Michael of celestial armies prince,
And thou in military prowess next 45
Gabriel, lead forth to battel these my sons
Invincible, lead forth my armed saints
By thousands and by millions rang'd for fight,
Equal in number to that godless crew
Rebellious; them with fire and hostile arms 50
Fearless assault, and to the brow of Heav'n
Pursuing drive them out from God and bliss
Into their place of punishment, the gulf
Of Tartarus, which ready opens wide
His fiery chaos to receive their fall. 55

So spake the sovran Voice, and clouds began
To darken all the hill, and smoke to roll
In dusky wreaths, reluctant flames, the sign
Of wrath awak'd; nor with less dread the loud
Ethereal trumpet from on high 'gan blow: 60
At which command the powers militant,
That stood for Heav'n, in mighty quadrate join'd
Of union irresistible, mov'd on
In silence their bright legions, to the sound
Of instrumental harmony, that breath'd 65
Heroic ardor to advent'rous deeds
Under their god-like leaders, in the cause
Of God and his Messiah. On they move
Indissolubly firm; nor obvious hill,

Nor strait'ning vale, nor wood, nor stream divides 70
 Their perfect ranks; for high above the ground
 Their march was, and the passive air upbore
 Their nimble tread; as when the total kind
 Of birds, in orderly array on wing,
 Came summon'd over Eden to receive 75
 Their names of thee; so over many a tract
 Of Heav'n they march'd, and many a province wide
 Tenfold the length of this terrene: at last
 Far in th' horizon to the North appear'd
 From skirt to skirt a fiery region, stretch'd 80
 In battailous aspect, and nearer view
 Bristled with upright beams innumerable
 Of rigid spears, and helmets throng'd, and shields
 Various, with boastful argument portray'd,
 The banded powers of Satan hastening on 85
 With furious expedition; for they ween'd
 That self-same day by fight, or by surprise,
 To win the Mount of God, and on his throne
 To set the Envier of his state, the proud
 Aspirer, but their thoughts prov'd fond and vain 90
 In the mid-way: though strange to us it seem'd
 At first, that angel should with angel war,
 And in fierce hosting meet, who wont to meet
 So oft in festivals of joy and love
 Unanimous, as sons of one great Sire 95
 Hymning th' eternal Father: but the shout
 Of battel now began, and rushing sound

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Of onset ended soon each milder thought.
High in the midst exalted as a god
Th' Apostate in his sun-bright chariot sat, 100
Idol of majesty divine, inclos'd
With flaming cherubim and golden shields;
Then lighted from his gorgeous throne, for now
'Twixt host and host but narrow space was left,
A dreadful interval, and front to front 105
Presented stood in terrible array
Of hideous length: before the cloudy van,
On the rough edge of battel ere it join'd,
Satan with vast and haughty strides advanc'd
Came towering, arm'd in adamant and gold; 110
Abdiel that fight endur'd not, where he stood
Among the mightiest, bent on highest deeds,
And thus his own undaunted heart explores.

O Heav'n! that such resemblance of the Highest
Should yet remain, where faith and realtà 115
Remain not: wherefore should not strength and might
There fail where virtue fails, or weakest prove
Where boldest, though to fight unconquerable?
His puissance, trusting in th' Almighty's aid,
I mean to try, whose reason I have try'd 120
Unsound and false; nor is it ought but just,
That he who, in debate of truth hath won
Should win in arms, in both disputes alike
Victor; though brutish that contest and foul,
When Reason hath to deal with Force, yet so 125

Most reason is that Reason overcome.

So pondering, and from his armed peers
Forth stepping opposit, half way he met
His daring foe, at this prevention more
Incens'd, and thus securely him defy'd. 130

Proud, art thou met? thy hope was to have reach'd
The highth of thy aspiring unoppos'd,
The throne of God unguarded, and his side
Abandon'd at the terror of thy power
Or potent tongue: fool, not to think how vain 135
Against th' Omnipotent to rise in arms;
Who out of smallest things could without end
Have rais'd incessant armies to defeat

Thy folly; or with solitary hand
Reaching beyond all limit, at one blow 140

Unaided could have finish'd thee, and whelm'd
Thy legions under darkness: but thou seest
All are not of thy train; there be who faith
Prefer, and piety to God, though then

To thee not visible, when I alone 145
Seem'd in thy world erroneous to dissent

From all; my sect thou seest; now learn too late
How few sometimes may know, when thousands err.

Whom the grand Foe with scornful eye askance
Thus answer'd. Ill for thee, but in wish'd hour 150
Of my revenge, first sought for thou return'st
From flight, seditious angel, to receive
Thy merited reward, the first assay

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Of this right hand provok'd, since first that tongue
Inspir'd with contradiction durst oppose 155
A third part of the gods, in synod met
Their deities to assert, who while they feel
Vigor divine within them, can allow
Omnipotence to none. But well thou com'st
Before thy fellows, ambitious to win 160
From me some plume, that thy success may show
Destruction to the rest: this pause between
(Unanswer'd lest thou boast) to let thee know;
At first I thought that Liberty and Heav'n
To heav'nly souls had been all one; but now 165
I see that most through sloth had rather serve,
Ministring spi'its, train'd up in feast and song;
Such hast thou arm'd, the minstrelsy of Heav'n,
Servility with Freedom to contend,
As both their deeds compar'd this day shall prove. 170
To whom in brief thus Abdiel stern reply'd.
Apostate, still thou err'st, nor end wilt find
Of erring, from the path of Truth remote:
Unjustly thou depriv'st it with the name
Of Servitude to serve whom God ordains, 175
Or Nature: God and Nature bid the same,
When he who rules is worthiest, and excels
Them whom he governs. This is servitude,
To serve th' unwise, or him who hath rebell'd
Against his worthier, as thine now serve thee, 180
Thyself not free, but to thyself inthrall'd;

Yet lewdly dar'st our ministring upbraid.
 Reign thou in Hell thy kingdom; let me serve
 In Heav'n God ever blest, and his divine
 Behests obey, worthiest to be obey'd; 185
 Yet chains in Hell, not realms expect: mean while
 From me return'd, as erst thou saidst, from flight,
 This greeting on thy impious crest receive.

So say'ing, a noble stroke he lifted high,
 Which hung not, but so swift with tempest fell 190
 On the proud crest of Satan, that no sight,
 Nor motion of swift thought, less could his shield
 Such ruin intercept: ten paces huge
 He back recoil'd; the tenth on bended knee
 His massy spear upstay'd; as if on earth 195
 Winds under ground, or waters forcing way
 Sidelong had push'd a mountain from his seat
 Half sunk with all his pines. Amazement seis'd
 The rebel thrones, but greater rage to see
 Thus foil'd their mightiest; ours joy fill'd, and shout,
 Prefage of victory, and fierce desire: 201
 Of battel: whereat Michaël bid found
 Th' arch-angel trumpet; through the vast of Heav'n
 It sounded, and the faithful armies rung
 Hosanna to the Highest: nor stood at gaze 205
 The adverse legions, nor less hideous join'd
 The horrid shock: now storming fury rose,
 And clamor such as heard in Heav'n till now
 Was never; arms on armour clashing bray'd

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Horrible discord, and the madding wheels 210
Of brazen chariots rag'd; dire was the noise
Of conflict; over head the dismal hiss
Of fiery darts in flaming volies flew,
And flying vaulted either host with fire.
So under fiery cope together rush'd 215
Both battels main, with ruinous assault
And inextinguishable rage; all Heav'n
Resounded, and had Earth been then, all Earth
Had to her center shook. What wonder? when
Millions of fire-encount'ring angels fought 220
On either side, the least of whom could wield
These elements, and arm him with the force
Of all their regions: how much more of power
Army' against army numberless to raise
Dreadful combustion warring, and disturb, 225
Though not destroy, their happy native seat;
Had not th' eternal King omnipotent
From his strong hold of Heav'n high over-rul'd
And limited their might; though number'd such
As each divided legion might have seem'd 230
A numerous host, in strength each armed hand
A legion, led in fight yet leader seem'd
Each warrior single as in chief, expert
When to advance, or stand, or turn the sway
Of battel, open when, and when to close 235
The ridges of grim War: no thought of flight,
None of retreat, no unbecoming deed

That argued fear; each on himself rely'd,
 As only in his arm the moment lay
 Of victory: deeds of eternal fame
 Were done, but infinite; for wide was spread
 That war and various, sometimes on firm ground
 A standing fight, then soaring on main wing
 'Tormented all the air; all air seem'd then
 Conflicting fire: long time in even scale
 The battel hung; till Satan, who that day
 Prodigious power had shown, and met in arms
 No equal, ranging through the dire attack
 Of fighting seraphim confus'd, at length
 Saw where the sword of Michael smote, and fell'd
 Squadrons at once; with huge two-handed sway
 Brandish'd aloft the horrid edge came down
 Wide wasting; such destruction to withstand
 He hasted, and oppos'd the rocky orb
 Of tenfold adamant, his ample shield,
 A vast circumference: at his approach
 The great arch-angel from his warlike toil
 Surceas'd, and glad, as hoping here to end
 Intestin war in Heav'n, th' Arch-foe subdu'd
 Or captive dragg'd in chains, with hostile frown
 And visage all inflam'd first thus began.

Author of ev'il, unknown till thy revolt,
 Unnam'd in Heav'n, now plenteous, as thou seest
 These acts of hateful strife, hateful to all,
 Though heaviest by just measure on thyself

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And thy adherents: how hast thou disturb'd
Heav'n's blessed peace, and into Nature brought
Misery, uncreated till the crime
Of thy rebellion? how hast thou instill'd
Thy malice into thousands, once upright
And faithful, now prov'd false? But think not here
To trouble holy rest; Heav'n casts thee out
From all her confines. Heav'n the seat of bliss
Brooks not the works of Violence and War.
Hence then, and evil go with thee along,
Thy offspring, to the place of evil, Hell,
Thou and thy wicked crew; there mingle broils,
Ere this avenging sword begin thy doom,
Or some more sudden vengeance wing'd from God
Precipitate thee with augmented pain. 270

So spake the Prince of angels; to whom thus
The Adversary. Nor think thou with wind
Of aery threats to awe whom yet with deeds
Thou canst not. Hast thou turn'd the least of these
To flight, or if to fall, but that they rise
Unvanquish'd, easier to transact with me
That thou shouldst hope, imperious, and with threats
To chase me hence? nor not that so shall end
The strife which thou call'st Evil, but we stile
The Strife of Glory; which we mean to win,
Or turn this Heav'n itself into the Hell
Thou fablest, here however to dwell free,
If not to reign: mean while thy utmost force,

And join him nam'd Almighty to thy aid,
I fly not, but have sought thee far and nigh. 295

They ended parle, and both address'd for fight
Unspeakable; for who, though with the tongue
Of angels, can relate, or to what things
Likely on earth conspicuous, that may lift
Human imagination to such height 300
Of godlike power? for likest gods they seem'd,
Stood they or mov'd, in stature, motion, arms,
Fit to decide the empire of great Heav'n.
Now wav'd their fiery swords, and in the air
Made horrid circles; two broad suns their shields 305
Blaz'd opposit, while Expectation stood
In horror; from each hand with speed retir'd,
Where erst was thickest fight, th' angelic throng,
And left large field, unsafe within the wind
Of such commotion; such as, to set forth 310
Great things by small, if Nature's concord broke,
Among the constellations war were sprung,
Two planets rushing from aspect malign
Of fiercest opposition in mid sky
Should combat, and their jarring spheres confound.
Together both with next to' almighty arm 316
Up-lifted imminent, one stroke they aim'd
That might determin, and not need repeat,
As not of power at once; nor odds appear'd
In might or swift prevention: but the sword 320
Of Michael from the armoury of God

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Was giv'n him temper'd so, that neither keen
Nor solid might resist that edge: it met
The sword of Satan with steep force to smite
Descending, and in half cut sheer; nor stay'd, 325
But with swift wheel reverse, deep entering shar'd
All his right side: then Satan first knew pain,
And writh'd him to and fro convolv'd; so fore
The griding sword with discontinuous wound
Pass'd through him: but th' ethereal substance clos'd,
Not long divisible; and from the gash 331
A stream of nect'rous humor issuing flow'd
Sanguin, such as celestial spi'rits may bleed,
And all his armour stain'd ere while so bright.
Forthwith on all sides to his aid was run 335
By angels many' and strong, who interpos'd
Defense, while others bore him on their shields
Back to his chariot, where it stood retir'd
From off the files of war; there they him laid
Gnashing for anguish and despite and shame, 340
To find himself not matchless, and his pride
Humbled by such rebuke, so far beneath
His confidence to equal God in power.
Yet soon he heal'd; for spi'rits that live throughout
Vital in every part, not as frail man 345
In entrails, heart or head, liver or reins,
Cannot but by annihilating die;
Nor in their liquid texture mortal wound
Receive, no more than can the fluid air:

All heart they live, all head, all eye, all ear, 350
 All intellect, all sense; and as they please,
 They limb themselves, and color, shape or size
 Assume, as likes them best, condense or rare.

Mean while in other parts like deeds deserv'd
 Memorial, where the might of Gabriel fought, 355
 And with fierce ensigns pierc'd the deep array
 Of Moloch furious king; who him defy'd,
 And at his chariot wheels to drag him bound
 Threaten'd, nor from the Holy One of Heav'n
 Refrain'd his tongue blasphemous; but anon 360
 Down cloven to the waste, with shatter'd arms
 And uncouth pain fed bellowing. On each wing
 Uriel and Raphaël his vaunting foe,
 Though huge, and in a rock of diamond arm'd,
 Vanquish'd Adramelech and Asmadai, 365
 Two potent thrones, that to be less than gods
 Disdain'd, but meaner thoughts learn'd in their flight,
 Mangled with ghastly wounds through plate and mail.
 Nor stood unmindful Abdiel to annoy
 The athiest crew, but with redoubled blow 370
 Ariel and Arioch, and the violence
 Of Ramiel scorch'd and blasted overthrew.
 I might relate of thousands, and their names
 Eternize here on Earth; but those elect
 Angels, contented with their fame in Heav'n, 375
 Seek not the praise of men: the other sort,
 In might though wondrous and in acts of war,

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Nor of renown less eager, yet by doom
Cancel'd from Heav'n and sacred Memory,
Nameless in dark Oblivion let them dwell. 380
For strength from truth divided and from just,
Illaudable, nought merits but dispraise
And ignominy, yet to glory' aspires
Vain-glorious, and through infamy seeks fame:
Therefore eternal silence be their doom. 385

And now their mightiest quell'd, the battel swerv'd,
With many an inroad gor'd; deformed Rout
Enter'd, and foul Disorder; all the ground
With shiver'd armour strown, and on a heap
Chariot and charioteer lay overturn'd, 390
And fiery foaming steeds; what stood, recoil'd
O'er-wearied, through the faint Satanic host
Defensive scarce, or with pale Fear surpris'd,
Then first with fear surpris'd and sense of pain
Fled ignominious, to such evil brought 395
By sin of disobedience, till that hour
Not liable to fear or flight or pain.
Far otherwise th' inviolable saints
In cubic phalanx firm advanc'd entire,
Invulnerable, impenetrably arm'd; 400
Such high advantages their innocence
Gave them above their foes; not to have sinn'd,
Not to have disobey'd; in fight they stood
Unwearied, unobnoxious to be pain'd 404
By wound, though from their place by violence mov'd.

Now Night her course began, and over Heav'n
 Inducing darkness, grateful truce impos'd,
 And silence on the odious din of War:
 Under her cloudy covert both retir'd,
 Victor and vanquish'd: on the foughten field 410
 Michaël and his angels prevalent
 Incamping, plac'd in guard their watches round,
 Cherubic waving fires: on th' other part
 Satan with his rebellious disappear'd,
 Far in the dark dislodg'd: and void of rest, 415
 His Potentates to council call'd by night;
 And in the midst thus undismay'd began.

O now in danger try'd, now known in arms
 Not to be overpower'd, Companions dear,
 Found worthy not of liberty alone, 420
 Too mean pretence, but what we more affect,
 Honor, dominion, glory and renown;
 Who have sustain'd one day in doubtful fight
 (And if one day, why not eternal days?)
 What Heaven's Lord had powerfullest to send 425
 Against us from about his throne, and judg'd
 Sufficient to subdue us to his will,
 But proves not so: then fallible, it seems,
 Of future we may deem him, though till now
 Omniscient thought: True is, less firmly arm'd, 430
 Some disadvantage we indur'd and pain,
 Till now not known, but known as soon condemn'd;
 Since now we find this our empyreal form

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Incapable of mortal injury,
Imperishable, and though pierc'd with wound, 435
Soon closing, and by native vigor heal'd.
Of evil then so small as easy think
The remedy; perhaps more valid arms,
Weapons more violent, when next we meet,
May serve to better us, and worse our foes, 440
Or equal what between us made the odds,
In nature none: if other hidden cause
Left them superior, while we can preserve
Unhurt our minds and understanding sound,
Due search and consultation will disclose. 445

He sat; and in th' assembly next upstood
Nisroch, of principalities the prime;
As one he stood escap'd from cruel fight,
Sore toil, his riven arms to havoc hewn,
And cloudy in aspect thus answer'ing spake. 450
Deliverer from new lords, leader to free
Enjoyment of our right as gods; yet hard
For gods, and too unequal work we find,
Against unequal arms to fight in pain,
Against unpain'd, impassive; from which evil 455
Ruin must needs ensue; for what avails
Valor or strength, though matchless, quell'd with pain
Which all subdues, and makes remiss the hands
Of mightiest? Sense of pleasure we may well
Spare out of life perhaps, and not repine, 460
But live content, which is the calmest life:

But pain is perfect misery, the worst
Of evils, and excessive, overturns
All patience. He who therefore can invent
With what more forcible we may offend
Our yet unwounded enemies, or arm
Ourselves with like defense, to me deserves
No less than for deliverance what we owe.

Whereto with look compos'd Satan reply'd.
Not uninvented that, which thou aright
Believ'st so main to our success, I bring
Which of us who beholds the bright surface
Of this ethereous mold whereon we stand,
This continent of spacious Heav'n, adorn'd
With plant, fruit, flow'r ambrosial; gems and gold;
Whose eye so superficially surveys
These things, as not to mind from whence they grow
Deep under ground, materials dark and crude,
Of spiritous and fiery spume, till touch'd
With Heav'n's ray, and temper'd they shoot forth
So beauteous, op'ning to the ambient light?
These in their dark nativity the deep
Shall yield us pregnant with infernal flame;
Which into hollow engins long and round
Thick-ramm'd, at th' other bore with touch of fire
Dilated and infuriate, shall send forth
From far with thund'ring noise among our foes
Such implements of mischief, as shall dash
To pieces, and o'erwhelm whatever stands

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Adverse, that they shall fear we have disarm'd 490
The Thund'rer of his only dreaded bolt.

Nor long shall be our labor; yet ere dawn;
Effect shall end our wish. Mean while revive;

Abandon fear; to strength and counsel join'd
Think nothing hard, much less to be despair'd. 495

He ended, and his words their drooping cheer
Inlighten'd, and their languish'd hope reviv'd.

Th' invention all admir'd, and each, how he
To be th' inventor mis'd; so easy it seem'd 499

Once found, which yet unfound most would have
Impossible; yet haply of thy race [thought

In future days, if malice should abound,
Some one intent on mischief, or inspir'd

With devilish machination, might devise
Like instrument to plague the sons of men 505

For sin, on war and mutual slaughter bent.
Forthwith from council to the work they flew;

None arguing stood; innumerable hands
Were ready; in a moment up they turn'd

Wide the celestial soil, and saw beneath 510
Th' originals of Nature in their crude

Conception; sulphurous and nitrous foam.
They found, they mingled; and with subtle art,

Concocted and adusted they reduc'd
To blackest grain, and into store convey'd: 515

Part hidden veins digg'd up (nor hath this earth
Entrails unlike) of mineral and stone,

Whereof to found their engins and their balls
 Of missive ruin; part incentive reed
 Provide, pernicious with one touch to fire: 520
 So all ere day-spring, under conscious Night,
 Secret they finish'd, and in order set,
 With silent circumspection unespied.

Now when fair Morn orient in Heav'n appear'd,
 Up rose the victor angels, and to arms 525
 The matin trumpet sung: in arms they stood
 Of golden panoply, refulgent host,
 Soon banded; others from the dawning hills
 Look'd round, and scouts each coast light-armed scour,
 Each quarter, to descry the distant foe. 530
 Where lodg'd, or whether fled, or if for fight,
 In motion or in halt: him soon they met
 Under spread ensigas moving nigh, in flow
 But firm battalion; back with speediest sail
 Zophiel, of cherubim the swiftest wing, 535
 Came fly'ing, and in mid air aloud thus cry'd.

Arm, Warriors, arm for fight; the foe at hand,
 Whom fled we thought, will save us long pursuit
 This day; fear not his flight; so thick a cloud
 He comes, and settled in his face I see 540
 Sad Resolution and secure: let each
 His adamantin coat gird well, and each
 Fit well his helm, gripe fast his orb'd shield,
 Borne ev'n or high; for this day will pour down,
 If I conjecture ought, no drizzling shower, 545

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But rattling storm of arrows barb'd with fire.
So warn'd he them aware themselves, and soon
In order, quit of all impediment;
Instant without disturb they took alarm,
And onward mov'd imbattel'd: when behold
Not distant far with heavy pace the foe
Approaching gross and huge, in hollow cube
Training his devilish enginry, impal'd
On every side with shadowing squadrons deep,
To hide the fraud. At interview both stood
A while; but suddenly at head appear'd
Satan, and thus was heard commanding loud.

Vanguard, to right and left the front unfold;
That all may see who hate us, how we seek
Peace and composeure, and with open breast
Stand ready to receive them, if they like
Our overture, and turn not back perverse;
But that I doubt; however witness Heav'n,
Heav'n witness thou anon, while we discharge
Freely our part; ye who appointed stand,
Do as you have in charge, and briefly touch
What we propounded, and loud that all may hear.

So scoffing in ambiguous words, he scarce
Had ended; when to right and left the front
Divided, and to either flank retir'd:
Which to our eyes discover'd, new and strange,
A triple mounted row of pillars laid
On wheels (for like to pillars most they seem'd,

Or hollow'd bodies made of oak or fir,
With branches lopt, in wood or mountain fell'd) 575
Brass, iron, stony mold, had not their mouths
With hideous orifice gap'd on us wide,
Portending hollow truce: at each behind
A seraph stood, and in his hand a reed
Stood waving tipt with fire; while we suspense 580
Collected stood within our thoughts amus'd,
Not long, for sudden all at once their reeds
Put forth, and to a narrow vent apply'd
With nicest touch. Immediate in a flame, 584
But soon obscur'd with smoke, all Heav'n appear'd,
From those deep-throated engins belch'd, whose roar
Imbowel'd with outrageous noise the Air,
And all her entrails tore, disgorging soul
Their devilish glut, chain'd thunderbolts and hail
Of iron globes; which on the victor host 590
Level'd, with such impetuous fury smote,
That whom they hit, none on their feet might stand,
Though standing else as rocks, but down they fell
By thousands, angel on arch-angel roll'd;
The sooner for their arms; unarm'd they might 595
Have easily as spi'rits evaded swift
By quick contraction or remove; but now
Soul dissipation follow'd and forc'd rout;
Nor serv'd it to relax their ferried files.
What should they do? If on they rush'd, repulse 600
Repeated, and indecent overthrow

Doubled, would render them yet more despis'd,
And to their foes a laughter; for in view
Stood rank'd of seraphim another row,
In posture to displode their second tire
Of thunder: back defeated to return
They worse abhorr'd. Satan beheld their plight,
And to his mates thus in derision call'd.

O Friends, why come not on these victors proud?
Ere while they fierce were coming; and when we,
To entertain them fair with open front
And breast (what could we more?) propounded terms
Of composition, strait they chang'd their minds,
Flew off, and into strange vagaries fell,
As they would dance; yet for a dance they seem'd
Somewhat extravagant and wild, perhaps
For joy of offer'd peace: but I suppose,
If our proposals once again were heard,
We should compel them to a quick result.

To whom thus Belial in like gamesome mood.
Leader, the terms we sent were terms of weight,
Of hard contents, and full of force urg'd home,
Such as we might perceive amus'd them all,
And stumbled many; who receives them right,
Had need from head to foot well understand;
Not understood, this gift they have besides,
They show us when our foes walk not upright.

So they among themselves in pleasant vein
Stood scoffing, highten'd in their thoughts beyond

All doubt of victory; Eternal Might
 To match with their inventions they presum'd
 So easy', and, of his thunder made a scorn,
 And all his host derided, while they stood
 A while in trouble: but they stood not long;
 Rage prompted them at length, and found them arms
 Against such hellish mischief fit to oppose.
 Forthwith (behold the excellence, the power,
 Which God hath, in his mighty angels plac'd)
 Their arms away they threw; and to the hills
 (For Earth hath this variety from Heav'n
 Of pleasure situate in hill and dale)
 Light as the lightning glimpse they ran, they flew;
 From their foundations loosning to and fro
 They pluck'd the seated hills with all their load,
 Rocks, waters, woods, and by the shaggy tops
 Up-lifting bore them in their hands: amaze,
 Be sure, and terror seiz'd the rebel host,
 When coming towards them so dread they saw
 The bottom of the mountains upward turn'd;
 Till on those cursed engines' triple-row
 They saw them whelm'd, and all their confidence
 Under the weight of mountains buried deep;
 Themselves invaded next, and on their heads
 Main promontories flung, which in the air
 Came shadowing, and oppress'd whole legions arm'd;
 Their armour help'd their harm, crush'd in and bruis'd
 Into their substance pent, which wrought them pain

Implacable, and many a dolorous groan,
Long struggling underneath, ere they could wind
Out of such pris'n, though spi'rits of purest light,
Purest at first, now gross by sinning grown. 661
'The rest in imitation to like arms
Betook them, and the neighb'ring hills up tore;
So hills amid the air encounter'd hills
Hurl'd to and fro with jaculation dire, 665
That under ground they fought in dismal shade;
Infernal noise; war seem'd a civil game
To this uproar; horrid confusion heap'd
Upon confusion rose: and now all Heav'n
Had gone to wrack, with ruin overspread; 670
Had not th' almighty Father, where he sits
Shrin'd in his sanctuary of Heav'n secure,
Consulting on the sum of things, foreseen
This tumult, and permitted all, advis'd:
That his great purpose he might so fulfil, 675
To honor his anointed Son aveng'd
Upon his enemies, and to declare
All power on him transferr'd: whence to his Son
Th' assessor of his throne he thus began.

Effulgence of my glory, Son Belov'd, 680
Son in whose face invisible is beheld
Visibly, what by Deity I am,
And in whose hand what by decree I do,
Second Omnipotence, two days are past,
Two days, as we compute the days of Heav'n, 685

Since Michael and his powers went forth to tame
These disobedient: sore hath been their fight,
As likeliest was; when two such foes met arm'd;
For to themselves I left them, and thou know'st,
Equal in their creation: they were form'd,
Save what sin hath impair'd, which yet hath wrought
Insensibly, for I suspend their doom;
Whence in perpetual fight they needs must last
Endless, and no solution will be found:
War wearied hath perform'd what War can do,
And to disorder'd Rage let loose the reins,
With mountains as with weapons arm'd, which makes
Wild work in Heav'n, and dangerous to the main.
Two days are therefore past, the third is thine;
For thee I have ordain'd it, and thus far
Have suffer'd, that the glory may be thine
Of ending this great war, since none but thou
Can end it. Into thee such virtue and grace
Immense I have transfus'd, that all may know
In Heav'n and Hell thy power above compare;
And this perverse commotion govern'd thus,
To manifest thee worthiest to be heir
Of all things, to be heir and to be king
By sacred unction, thy deserved right.
Go then thou Mightiest in thy Father's might,
Ascend my chariot, guide the rapid wheels
That shake Heav'n's basis, bring forth all my war,
My bow and thunder, my almighty arms

Gird on, and sword upon thy puissant thigh;
Pursue these sons of Darkness, drive them out 715
From all Heav'n's bounds into the utter Deep:
There let them learn, as likes them, to despise
God and Messiah his anointed king.

He said, and on his Son with rays direct
Shone full; he all his Father full express'd 720
Ineffably into his face receiv'd;
And thus the filial Godhead answer'ing spake.

O Father, O Supreme of heav'nly thrones,
First, Highest, Holiest, Best, thou always seek'st
To glorify thy Son, I always thee, 725
As is most just; this I my glory' account,
My exaltation, and my whole delight,
That thou in me well pleas'd, declar'st thy will
Fulfill'd, which to fulfil is all my bliss.
Scepter and power, thy giving, I assume; 730
And gladlier shall resign, when in the end
Thou shalt be all in all, and I in thee
For ever, and in me all whom thou lov'st:
But whom thou hat'st, I hate, and can put on
Thy terrors, as I put thy mildness on, 735
Image of thee in all things; and shall soon,
Arm'd with thy might, rid Heav'n of these rebell'd,
To their prepar'd ill mansion driven down,
To chains of darkness, and th' undying worm,
That from thy just obedience could revolt, 740
Whom to obey is happiness entire,

Then shall thy saints unmix'd, and from th' impure
Far separate, circling thy holy Mount
Unfeigned halleluiahs to thee sing,
Hymns of high praise, and I among them chief. 745

So said, he o'er his scepter bowing, rose
From the right hand of Glory where he sat;
And the third sacred morn began to shine,
Dawning through Heav'n: forth rush'd with whirlwind
The chariot of paternal Deity, [sound
Flashing thick flames, wheel within wheel undrawn,
Itself instinct with spirit, but convoy'd 752
By four cherubic shapes; four faces each
Had wondrous; as with stars their bodies all
And wings were set with eyes, with eyes the wheels
Of beril, and carreering fires between; 756
Over their heads a crystal firmament,
Whereon a saphir throne, inlaid with pure
Amber, and colors of the show'ry arch.
He in celestial panoply all arm'd 760
Of radiant Urim, work divinely wrought,
Ascended; at his right hand Victory
Sat eagle-wing'd; beside him hung his bow
And quiver with three-bolted thunder stor'd,
And from about him fierce effusion roll'd 765
Of smoke and bickering flame and sparkles dire:
Attended with ten thousand thousand saints,
He onward came, far off his coming shone;
And twenty thousand (I their number heard)

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Chariots of God, half on each hand were seen: 770
He on the wings of cherub rode sublime
On the cryſtallin ſky, in ſaphir thron'd,
Illuſtrious far and wide, but by his own
First ſeen; them unexpected joy ſurpris'd,
When the great enſign of Meſſiah blaz'd
Aloft by angels borne, his ſign in Heav'n;
Under whoſe conſult Michael ſoon reduc'd
His army, circumfus'd on either wing,
Under their head imbodied all in one.
Before him Power Divine his way prepar'd;
At his command th' uprooted hills retir'd
Each to his place; they heard his voice and went
Obſequious; Heav'n his wonted face renew'd,
And with freſh flow'rets hill and valley ſmil'd.
This ſaw his hapleſs foes but ſtood obdur'd,
And to rebellious fight rallied their powers
Inſenſate, hope conceiving from deſpair,
In heav'nly ſpi'rits could ſuch perverſeneſs dwell?
But to convince the proud what ſigns avail,
Or wonders move th' obdurate to relent?
They harden'd more by what might moſt reclame,
Grieving to ſee his glory, at the ſight
Took envy; and aspiring to his highth,
Stood reimbattel'd fierce, by force or fraud
Weening to proſper, and at length prevail
Againſt God and Meſſiah, or to fall
In univerſal ruin laſt; and now

To final battel drew, disdain'g flight,
Or faint retreat; when the great Son of God
To all his host on either hand thus spake.

Stand still in bright array, ye Saints, here stand
Ye Angels arm'd, this day from battel rest;
Faithful hath been your warfare, and of God
Accepted; fearless in his righteous cause,
And as ye have receiv'd, so have ye done
Invincibly; but of this curst crew
The punishment to other hand belongs;
Vengeance is his, or whose he sole appoints:
Number to this day's work is not ordain'd
Nor multitude; stand only and behold
God's indignation on these godless pour'd
By me; not you but me they have despis'd,
Yet envied; against me is all their rage,
Because the Father, to' whom in Heav'n supreme
Kingdom and power and glory appertains,
Hath honor'd me according to his will.
Therefore to me their doom he hath assign'd;
That they may have their wish, to try with me
In battel which the stronger proves, they all,
Or I alone against them, since by strength
They measure all, of other excellence
Not emulous, nor care who them excels;
Nor other strife with them do I vouchsafe.

So spake the Son, and into terror chang'd
His count'nance too severe to be beheld,

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And full of wrath bent on his enemies.
At once the Four spread out their starry wings
With dreadful shade contiguous, and the orbs
Of his fierce chariot roll'd, as with the sound
Of torrent floods, or of a numerous host. 830
He on his impious foes right onward drove,
Gloomy as Night; under his burning wheels
The stedfast empyrean shook throughout,
All but the throne itself of God. Full soon
Among them he arriv'd, in his right hand 835
Grasping ten thousand thunders, which he sent
Before him, such as in their souls infix'd
Plagues; they astonish'd all resistance lost,
All courage; down their idle weapons dropt;
O'er shields and helms and helmed heads he rode
Of thrones and mighty seraphim prostrate, 841
That wish'd the mountains now might be again
Thrown on them as a shelter from his ire.
Nor less on either side tempestuous fell
His arrows, from the fourfold-vifag'd Four 845
Distinct with eyes, and from the living wheels
Distinct alike with multitude of eyes;
One spirit in them rul'd, and every eye
Glar'd lightning, and shot forth pernicious fire
Among th' accurs'd, that wither'd all their strength,
And of their wonted vigor left them drain'd, 851
Exhausted, spiritless, afflicted, fall'n.
Yet half his strength he put not forth, but check'd

His thunder in mid voly; for he meant
 Not to destroy, but root them out of Heav'n: 853
 The overthrown he rais'd, and as a herd
 Of goats or timorous flock together throng'd
 Drove them before him thunder-struck, pursued
 With terrors and with furies to the bounds
 And crystal wall of Heav'n, which opening wide,
 Roll'd inward, and a spacious gap disclos'd 861
 Into the wasteful Deep; the monstrous fight
 Struck them with horror backward, but far worse
 Urg'd them behind; headlong themselves they threw
 Down from the verge of Heav'n; eternal Wrath 865
 Burnt after them to the bottomless Pit.

Hell heard th' unsufferable noise, Hell saw
 Heav'n ruining from Heav'n; and would have fled
 Affrighted; but strict Fate had cast too deep
 Her dark foundations; and too fast had bound. 870
 Nine days they fell; confounded Chaos roar'd,
 And felt tenfold confusion in their fall
 Through his wild anarchy, so huge a rout
 Incumber'd him with ruin: Hell at last
 Yawning receiv'd them whole, and on them clos'd;
 Hell their fit habitation fraught with fire 876
 Unquenchable, the house of woe and pain.
 Disburden'd Heav'n rejoic'd, and soon repair'd
 Her mural breach; returning whence it roll'd.
 Sole victor from th' expulsion of his foes 880
 Messiah his triumphal chariot turn'd:

To meet him all his saints, who silent stood
Eye-witnesses of his almighty acts,
With jubilee advanc'd; and as they went,
Shaded with branching palm, each order bright, 885
Sung triumph, and him sung victorious King,
Son, Heir, and Lord, to him dominion given,
Worthiest to reign: he celebrated rode
Triumphant through mid Heav'n, into the courts
And temple of his mighty Father thron'd 890
On high; who into glory him receiv'd,
Where now he sits at the right hand of Bliss.

Thus measuring things in Heav'n by things on Earth,
At thy request, and that thou may'st beware
By what is past, to thee I have reveal'd 895
What might have else to human race been hid;
'The discord which befel, and war in Heav'n
Among th' angelic powers, and the deep fall
Of those too high aspiring, who rebell'd
With Satan; he who envies now thy state, 900
Who now is plotting how he may seduce
Thee also from obedience, that with him
Bereav'd of happiness thou may'st partake
His punishment, eternal misery;
Which would be all his solace and revenge, 905
As a despite done against the Most High,
Thee once to gain companion of his woe.
But listen not to his temptations, warn
Thy weaker; let it profit thee to have heard

By terrible example the reward
Of disobedience; firm they might have stood,
Yet fell; remember, and fear to transgress,

The End of the Sixth Book.



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PARADISE LOST.

BOOK VII.

The Argument.

Raphael at the request of Adam relates how and wherefore this world was first created; that God, after the expelling of Satan and his angels out of Heaven, declared his pleasure to create another world and other creatures to dwell therein; sends his Son with glory and attendance of angels to perform the work of creation in six days: the angels celebrate with hymns the performance thereof, and his reascension into Heaven.

DESCEND from Heav'n, Urania, by that name
If rightly thou art call'd, whose voice divine
Following, above th' Olympian hill I soar,
Above the flight of Pegaſcan wing.
The meaning, not the name I call: for thou art
Nor of the Muses nine, nor on the top
Of old Olympus dwell'ſt, but heav'nly born,
Before the hills appear'd, or fountain flow'd,
Thou with eternal Wiſdom didſt conſerſe,
Wiſdom thy ſiſter, and with her didſt play
In preſence of th' almighty Father, pleas'd
With thy celeftial ſong. Up led by thee
Into the Heav'n of Heav'ns I have preſum'd,
An earthly gueſt, and drawn empyreal air,
Thy temp'ring; with like ſafety guided down
Return me to my native element:
Leſt from this flying ſteed unrein'd, (as once

Bellerephon, though from a lower clime)
 Dismounted, on th' Alcian field I fall
 Erroneous there to wander and forlorn. 20
 Half yet remains unsung, but narrower bound
 Within the visible diurnal sphere;
 Standing on Earth, not rapt above the pole,
 More safe I sing with mortal voice, unchang'd
 To hoarse or mute, though fall'n on evil days, 25
 On evil days though fall'n, and evil tongues;
 In darkness, and with dangers compass'd round,
 And solitude; yet not alone, while thou
 Visit'st my slumbers nightly, or when Morn
 Purples the east: still govern thou my song, 30
 Urania, and fit audience find, though few;
 But drive far off the barbarous dissonance
 Of Bacchus and his revelers, the race
 Of that wild rout that tore the Thracian bard
 In Rhodope, where woods and rocks had ears 35
 To rapture, till the savage clamor drown'd
 Both harp and voice; nor could the Muse defend
 Her son. So fail not thou, who thee implôres:
 For thou art heav'nly, she an empty dream.

Say Goddess, what ensued when Raphaël, 40
 The affable arch-angel, had forewarn'd
 Adam by dire example to beware
 Apostasy, by what befel in Heav'n
 To those apostates, lest the like befal
 In Paradise to Adam or his race, 45

Charg'd not to touch the interdicted Tree,
If they transgress, and slight that sole command,
So easily obey'd amid the choice
Of all tastes else to please their appetite,
Though wand'ring. He with his comforted Eve 50
The story heard attentive, and was fill'd
With admiration, and deep muse, to hear
Of things so high and strange, things to their thought
So unimaginable as hate in Heav'n,
And war so near the peace of God in bliss 55
With such confusion: but the evil soon
Driv'n back redounded as a flood on those
From whom it sprung, impossible to mix
With blessedness. Whence Adam soon repeal'd
The doubts that in his heart arose: and now 60
Led on, yet sinless, with desire to know
What nearer might concern him, how this world
Of Heav'n and Earth conspicuous first began,
When, and whereof created, for what cause,
What within Eden or without was done 65
Before his memory, as one whose drouth
Yet scarce allay'd still eyes the current stream,
Whose liquid murmur heard new thirst excites,
Proceeded thus to ask his heav'nly guest.

Great things, and full of wonder in our ears, 70
Far differing from this world, thou hast reveal'd,
Divine Interpreter, by favor sent
Down from the empyrean to forewarn

Us timely' of what might else have been our loss,
 Unknown, which human knowledge could not reach :
 For which to th' infinitely Good we owe 76
 Immortal thanks, and his admonishment
 Receive with solemn purpose to observe
 Immutably his sovran will, the end
 Of what we are. But since thou hast vouchsaf'd 80
 Gently for our instruction to impart
 Things above earthly thought, which yet concern'd
 Our knowing, as to highest Wisdom seem'd,
 Deign to descend now lower, and relate
 What may no less perhaps avail us known, 85
 How first began this Heav'n which we behold
 Distant so high, with moving fires adorn'd
 Innumerable, and this which yields or fills
 All space, the ambient air wide interfus'd
 Embracing round this florid Earth; what cause 90
 Mov'd the Creator in his holy rest
 Through all eternity so late to build
 In Chaos, and the work begun, how soon
 Absolv'd, if unforbid thou may'st unfold
 What we, not to explore the secrets ask 95
 Of his eternal empire, but the more
 To magnify his works, the more we know.
 And the great Light of day yet wants to run
 Much of his race though steep; suspense in Heav'n,
 Held by thy voice, thy potent voice, he hears, 100
 And longer will delay to hear thee tell

His generation, and the rising birth
Of Nature from the unapparent Deep:
Or if the star of evening and the moon
Haste to thy audience, Night with her will bring
Silence, and Sleep list'ning to thee will watch,
Or we can bid his absence, till thy song
End, and dismiss thee ere the morning shine.

Thus Adam his illustrious guest besought:
And thus the godlike angel answer'd mild.
This also thy request with caution ask'd
Obtain: though to recount almighty works
What words or tongue of seraph can suffice,
Or heart of man suffice to comprehend?
Yet what thou canst attain, which best may serve
To glorify the Maker, and infer
Thee also happier; shall not be withheld
Thy hearing, such commission from above
I have receiv'd, to answer thy desire
Of knowledge within bounds; beyond abstain
To ask, nor let thine own inventions hope
Things not reveal'd, which th' invisible King,
Only omniscient, hath suppress'd in night,
To none communicable in Earth or Heav'n:
Enough is left besides to search and know
But knowledge is as food, and needs no less
Her temp'rance over appetite, to know
In measure what the mind may well contain;
Oppresses else with surfeit, and soon turns

Wisdom to folly', as nourishment to wind. 130

Know then, that after Lucifer from Heav'n
(So call him, brighter once amidst the host
Of angels than that star the stars among)
Fell with his flaming legions through the Deep
Into his place, and the great Son return'd 135
Victorious with his saints, th' omnipotent
Eternal Father from his throne beheld
Their multitude, and to his Son thus spake.

At least our envious Foe hath fail'd; who thought
All like himself rebellious, by whose aid 140
This inaccessible high strength, the seat
Of Deity supreme, us dispossest'd,
He trusted to have seist'd, and into fraud
Drew many, whom their place knows here no more;
Yet far the greater part have kept, I see, 145
Their station, Heav'n yet populous retains
Number sufficient to possess her realms
Though wide, and this high temple to frequent
With ministeries due and solemn rites:
But lest his heart exalt him in the harm 150
Already done, to have dispeopled Heav'n,
My damage fondly deem'd, I can repair
That detriment, if such it be to lose
Self-lost, and in a moment will create
Another world, out of one Man a race 155
Of men innumerable, there to dwell,
Not here, till by degrees of merit rais'd

They open to themselves at length the way
Up hither, under long obedience try'd;
And Earth be chang'd to Heav'n, and Heav'n to Earth,
One kingdom; joy and union without end.
Mean while inhabit lax, ye Powers of Heav'n;
And thou my Word, begotten Son, by thee
This I perform, speak thou, and be it done:
My overshadowing Spi'rit and might with thee
I send along; ride forth, and bid the Deep
Within appointed bounds be Heav'n and Earth,
Boundless the Deep, because I Am who fill
Infinitude; nor vacuous the space.
Though I uncircumscrib'd myself retire,
And put not forth my goodness which is free,
To act or not, Necessity and Chance
Approach not me, and what I will is fated.
So spake th' Almighty, and to what he spake
His Word, the filial Godhead, gave effect,
Immediate are the acts of God; more swift
Than time or motion, but to human ears
Cannot without process of speech be told,
So told as earthly motion can receive.
Great triumph and rejoicing was in Heav'n,
When such was heard declar'd th' Almighty's will;
Glory they sung to the Most High, good will
To future men, and in their dwellings peace:
Glory to him, whose just avenging ire
Had driven out th' ungodly from his sight

And th' habitations of the just; to him
 Glory and praise, whose wisdom had ordain'd
 Good out of evil to create, instead
 Of spi'rits malign a better race to bring
 Into their vacant room, and thence diffuse
 His good to worlds and ages infinite. 190

So sang the hierarchies: mean while the Son
 On his great expedition now appear'd,
 Girt with omnipotence, with radiance crown'd
 Of majesty divine; sapience and love 195
 Immense, and all his Father in him shone.
 About his chariot numberless were pour'd
 Cherub and seraph, potentates and thrones,
 And virtues, winged spi'rits, and chariots wing'd
 From th' armoury of God, where stand of old 200
 Myriads between two brazen mountains lodg'd
 Against a solemn day, harness'd at hand,
 Celestial equipage; and now came forth
 Spontaneous, for within them spirit liv'd,
 Attendent on their Lord: Heav'n open'd wide 205
 Her ever-during gates, harmonious found
 On golden hinges moving, to let forth
 The King of Glory in his powerful Word
 And Spirit coming to create new worlds.
 On heav'nly ground they stood, and from the shore
 They view'd the vast immeasurable abyss 211
 Outrageous as a sea, dark, wasteful, wild,
 Up from the bottom turn'd by furious winds

And surging waves, as mountains, to assault 214
Heav'n's highth, and with the center mix the pole.

Silence, ye troubled Waves, and thou Deep, peace,
Said then th' omnific Word, your discord end ;
Nor stay'd, but on the wings of cherubim
Uplifted, in paternal glory rode
Far into Chaos, and the world unborn ; 220
For Chaos heard his voice : him all his train
Follow'd in bright procession to behold
Creation, and the wonders of his might.

Then stay'd the fervid wheels, and in his hand
He took the golden compasses, prepar'd 225
In God's eternal store, to circumscribe
This universe, and all created things :
One foot he center'd, and the other turn'd
Round through the vast profundity obscure,
And said, Thus far extend, thus far thy bounds, 230
This be thy just circumference, O World.

Thus God the Heav'n created, thus the Earth,
Matter unform'd and void : darkness profound
Cover'd th' abyfs : but on the watry calm
His brooding wings the Spi'rit of God outspread, 235
And vital virtue' infus'd, and vital warmth
Throughout the fluid mass, but downward purg'd
The black tartareous cold infernal dregs
Adverse to life : then founded, then conglob'd
Like things to like, the rest to several place 240
Disparted, and between spun out the air,

And Earth self-balanc'd on her center hung.

Let there be light, said God, and forthwith Light
 Ethereal, first of things, quintessence pure
 Sprung from the Deep, and from her native East 245
 To journey through the aery gloom began,
 Spher'd in a radiant cloud, for yet the sun
 Was not; she in a cloudy tabernacle
 Sojourn'd the while: God saw the light was good;
 And light from darkness by the hemisphere 250
 Divided: light the Day, and darkness Night
 He nam'd. Thus was the first day ev'n and morn:
 Nor past uncelebrated, nor unsung
 By the celestial quires; when orient light
 Exhaling first from darkness they beheld; 255
 Birth-day of Heav'n and Earth; with joy and shout
 The hollow universal orb they fill'd,
 And touch'd their golden harps, and hymning prais'd
 God and his works, Creator him they sung
 Both when first evening was, and when first morn.

Again, God said; Let there be firmaments 261
 Amid the waters; and let it divide
 The waters from the waters: and God made
 The firmament, expanse of liquid, pure,
 Transparent, elemental air, diffus'd 265
 In circuit to the uttermost convex
 Of this great round: partition firm and sure,
 The waters underneath from those above
 Dividing: for as Earth, so he the world

Built on circumfluous waters calm, in wide
CrySTALLIN ocean, and the loud misrule
Of Chaos far remov'd, lest fierce extremes
Contiguous might distemper the whole frame:
And Heav'n he nam'd the Firmament: so even
And morning chorus sung the second day. 275

The Earth was form'd, but in the womb as yet
Of waters, embryo immature involv'd,
Appear'd not: over all the face of Earth
Main ocean flow'd, not idle, but with warm
Prolific humor soft'ning all her globe,
Fermented the great mother to conceive,
Satiated with genial moisture, when God said,
Be gather'd now ye waters under Heav'n
Into one place, and let dry land appear,
Immediately the mountains huge appear 285
Emergent, and their broad bare backs upheave
Into the clouds, their tops ascend the sky;
So high as heav'd the tumid hills, so low
Down sunk a hollow bottom broad and deep,
Capacious bed of waters: thither they 290
Hasted with glad precipitance, uproll'd
As drops on dust conglobing from the dry;
Part rise in crystal wall, or ridge direct,
For haste; such slight the great command impress'd
On the swift floods: as armies at the call 295
Of trumpet (for of armies thou hast heard)
Troop to their standard, so the watry throng,

Wave rolling after wave, where way they found,
If steep, with torrent rapture, if through plain,
Soft-ebbing; nor withstood them rock or hill, 300
But they, or under ground, or circuit wide
With serpent error wand'ring, found their way,
And on the washy ooze deep channels wore;
Easy, ere God had bid the ground be dry,
All but within those banks, where rivers now 305
Stream, and perpetual draw their humid train.
The dry land Earth, and the great receptacle
Of congregated waters he call'd Seas:
And saw that it was good, and said, Let th' Earth
Put forth the verdant grass, herb yielding seed, 310
And fruit-tree yielding fruit after her kind,
Whose seed is in herself upon the Earth.
He scarce had said, when the bare Earth, till then
Desert and bare, unsightly, unadorn'd,
Brought forth the tender grass, whose verdure clad 315
Her universal face with pleasant green,
Then herbs of every leaf, that sudden flower'd
Opening their various colors, and made gay
Her bosom smelling sweet: and these scarce blown,
Forth flourish'd thick the clustring vine, forth crept 320
The smelling gourd, up stood the corny reed
Imbattel'd in her field, and th' humble shrub,
And bush with frizled hair implicit: last
Rose as in dance the stately trees, and spread 324
Their branches hung with copious fruit, or gemm'd

Their blossoms: with high woods the hills were crown'd,
With tufts the valleys, and each fountain side,
With borders long the rivers: that Earth now
Seem'd like to Heav'n, a seat where gods might dwell,
Or wander with delight, and love to haunt 330
Her sacred shades: though God had yet not rain'd
Upon the Earth, and man to till the ground
None was, but from the Earth a dewy mist
Went up and water'd all the ground, and each
Plant of the field, which ere it was in th' Earth 335
God made, and every herb, before it grew
On the green stem; God saw that it was good:
So ev'n and morn recorded the third day.

Again th' Almighty spake, Let there be lights
High in th' expanse of Heaven to divide 340
The day from night; and let them be for signs,
For seasons, and for days, and circling years,
And let them be for lights as I ordain
Their office in the firmament of Heav'n
To give light on the Earth; and it was so. 345
And God made two great lights, great for their use
To man, the greater to have rule by day,
The less by night altern; and made the stars,
And set them in the firmament of Heav'n
To illuminate the Earth, and rule the day 350
In their vicissitude, and rule the night,
And light from darkness to divide. God saw,
Surveying his great work, that it was good:

For of celestial bodies first the sun
A mighty sphere he fram'd, unlightsome first, 355
Though of ethereal mold: then form'd the moon
Globose, and every magnitude of stars,
And sow'd with stars the Heav'n thick as a field:
Of light by far the greater part he took,
Transplanted from her cloudy shrine, and plac'd 360
In the sun's orb, made porous to receive
And drink the liquid light, firm to retain
Her gather'd beams, great palace now of light.
Hither as to their fountain other stars
Repairing, in their golden urns draw light, 365
And hence the morning planet gilds her horns;
By tincture or reflection they augment
Their small peculiar, though from human sight
So far remote, with diminution seen.
First in his East the glorious lamp was seen, 370
Regent of day, and all th' horizon round
Invested with bright rays, jocond to run
His longitude through Heav'n's high road; the gray
Dawn, and the Pleiades before him danc'd
Shedding sweet influence: less bright the moon 375
But opposit in level'd West was set
His mirror, with full face borrowing her light
From him, for other light she needed none
In that aspect, and still that distance keeps
Till night, then in the East her turn she shines, 380
Revolv'd on Heav'n's great axle, and her reign

With thousand lesser lights dividual holds,
With thousand thousand stars, that then appear'd
Spangling the hemisphere: then first adorn'd
With their bright luminaries that set and rose, 385
Glad Ev'ning and glad Morn crown'd the fourth day.

And God said, Let the waters generate
Reptil with spawn abundant, living soul:
And let fowl fly above the Earth, with wings
Display'd on th' open firmament of Heav'n. 390
And God created the great whales, and each
Soul living, each that crept, which plenteously
The waters generated by their kinds,
And every bird of wing after his kind;
And saw that it was good, and blest'd them, saying,
Be fruitful, multiply, and in the seas 396
And lakes and running streams the waters fill;
And let the fowl be multiply'd on th' Earth.
Forthwith the sounds and seas, each creek and bay
With fry innumerable swarm, and shoals 400
Of fish that with their fins and shining scales
Glide under the green wave, in sculls that oft
Bank the mid sea: part single or with mate
Graze the sea weed their pasture, and through groves
Of coral stray, or sporting with quick glance 405
Show to the sun their wav'd coats dropt with gold,
Or in their pearly shells at ease, attend
Moist nutriment, or under rocks their food
In jointed armour watch: on smooth the seal,

And bended dolphins play : part huge of bulk 410
 Wallowing unwieldy', enormous in their gate
 Tempest the ocean : there leviathan,
 Hugest of living creatures, on the deep
 Stretch'd like a promontory sleeps or swims
 And seems a moving land, and at his gills 415
 Draws in, and at his trunk spouts out a sea.
 Mean while the tepid caves, and fens and shores
 Their brood as numerous hatch, from th' egg that soon
 Bursting with kindly rupture forth disclos'd
 Their callow young, but feather'd soon and sledge 420
 They summ'd their pens, and soaring th' air sublime
 With clang despis'd the ground, under a cloud
 In prospect ; there the eagle and the stork
 On cliffs and cedar tops their eyries build :
 Part loosely wing the region, part more wise 425
 In common, rang'd in figure wedge their way,
 Intelligent of seasons, and set forth
 Their aery caravan high over seas
 Flying, and over lands with mutual wing
 Easing their flight ; so steers the prudent crane 430
 Her annual voyage, borne on winds ; the air
 Flotes, as they pass, fann'd with unnumber'd plumes :
 From branch to branch the smaller birds with song
 Solac'd the woods, and spread their painted wings
 Till ev'n, nor then the solemn nightingale 435
 Ceas'd warbling, but all night tun'd her soft lays :
 Others on silver lakes and rivers bath'd

Their downy breast; the swan with arched neck
Between her white wings mantling proudly, rows
Her state with oary feet; yet oft they quit 440
The dank, and rising on stiff pennons, tower
The mid aerial sky: others on ground
Walk'd firm; the crested cock whose clarion sounds
The silent hours, and th' other whose gay train
Adorns him, color'd with the florid hue 445
Of rainbows and starry eyes. The waters thus
With fish replenish'd, and the air with fowl,
Ev'ning and Morn solemniz'd the fifth day.

The sixth, and of creation last arose
With evening harps and matin, when God said, 450
Let th' Earth bring forth soul living in her kind,
Cattle and creeping things, and beast of th' Earth,
Each in their kind. The Earth obey'd, and strait
Opening her fertile womb teem'd at a birth
Innumerable living creatures, perfect forms, 455
Limb'd and full grown: out of the ground up rose
As from his lair the wild beast where he wons
In forest wild, in thicket, brake, or den;
Among the trees in pairs they rose, they walk'd:
The cattle in the fields and meadows green: 460
Those rare and solitary, these in flocks
Pasturing at once, and in broad herds upsprung.
The grassy clods now calv'd, now half appear'd
The tawny lion, pawing to get free 464
His hinder parts, then springs as broke from bonds,

And rampant shakes his brinded mane; the ounce,
 The libbard, and the tiger, as the mole
 Rising, the crumbled earth above them threw
 In hillocks: the swift stag from under ground 469
 Bore up his branching head: scarce from his mold
 Behemoth biggest born of Earth upheav'd
 His vastness: fleec'd the flocks and bleating rose,
 As plants: ambiguous between sea and land
 The river horse and scaly crocodile.
 At once came forth whatever creeps the ground, 473
 Insect or worm: those wav'd their limber fans
 For wings, and smallest lineaments exact
 In all the liveries deck'd of Summer's pride
 With spots of gold and purple', azure and green:
 These as a line their long dimension drew, 480
 Streaking the ground with sinuous trace; not all
 Minims of Nature; some of serpent kind,
 Wondrous in length and corpulence, involv'd
 Their snaky folds, and added wings. First crept
 The parsimonious emmet, provident 485
 Of future, in small room large heart inclos'd,
 Pattern of just equality perhaps
 Hereafter, joined in her popular tribes
 Of commonalty: swarming next appear'd
 The female bee, that feeds her husband drone 490
 Deliciously, and builds her waxen cells
 With honey stor'd: the rest are numberless,
 And thou their natures know'st, and gay'st them names,

Needless to thee repeated; nor unknown
The serpent subtlest beast of all the field, 495
Of huge extent sometimes, with brazen eyes
And hairy mane terrific, though to thee
Not noxious, but obedient at thy call.

Now Heav'n in all her glory shone, and roll'd
Her motions, as the great first Mover's hand, 500
First wheel'd their course; Earth in her rich attire
Consummate lovely smil'd; air, water, earth,
By fowl, fish, beast, was flown, was swum, was walk'd
Frequent; and of the sixth day yet remain'd;
There wanted yet the master work, the end, 505
Of all yet done; a creature who not prone
And brute as other creatures, but indued
With sanctity of reason, might erect
His stature, and upright with front serene
Govern the rest, self-knowing, and from thence 510
Magnanimous to correspond with Heav'n,
But grateful to acknowledge whence his good
Descends, thither with heart and voice and eyes
Directed in devotion, to adore
And worship God supreme, who made him chief 515
Of all his works: therefore th' Omnipotent
Eternal Father (for where is not he
Present?) thus to his Son audibly spake.

Let us make now Man in our image, Man
In our similitude, and let them rule 520
Over the fish and fowl of sea and air,

Beast of the field, and over all the Earth,
 And every creeping thing that creeps the ground.
 This said, he form'd thee, Adam, thee, O Man,
 Dust of the ground, and in thy nostrils breath'd 525
 The breath of life; in his own image he
 Created thee, in the image of God
 Express, and thou becam'st a living soul,
 Male he created thee, but thy comfort
 Female for race; then blest'd Mankind, and said,
 Be fruitful, multiply, and fill the Earth, 531
 Subdue it, and throughout dominion hold
 Over fish of the sea, and fowl of th' air,
 And every living thing that moves on th' Earth.
 Wherever thus created, for no place 535
 Is yet distinct by name, thence, as thou know'st,
 He brought thee into this delicious grove,
 This garden, planted with the trees of God,
 Delectable both to behold and taste;
 And freely all their pleasant fruit for food 540
 Gave thee; all sorts are here that all th' Earth yields
 Variety without end; but of the tree,
 Which tasted works knowledge of good and evil,
 Thou may'st not; in the day thou eat'st, thou dy'st;
 Death is the penalty impos'd, beware, 545
 And govern well thy appetite, lest Sin
 Surprise thee, and her black attendant Death.
 Here finish'd he, and all that he had made
 View'd, and beheld all was entirely good;

So ev'n and morn accomplish'd the sixth day: 550
Yet not till the Creator from his work
Desisting, though unwearied, up return'd,
Up to the Heav'n of Heav'ns his high abode,
Thence to behold this new-created world
Th' addition of his empire, how it show'd 555
In prospect from his throne, how good, how fair,
Answering his great idea. Up he rode
Follow'd with acclamation and the sound
Symphonious of ten thousand harps that tun'd
Angelic harmonies: the Earth, the air 560
Refounded, (thou remember'st, for thou heardst)
The Heav'ns and all the constellations rung,
The planets in their station list'ning stood,
While the bright pomp ascended jubilant.
Open, ye everlasting Gates, they sung, 565
Open, ye Heav'ns, your living doors; let in
The great Creator from his work return'd
Magnificent, his six days' work, a World;
Open, and henceforth oft; for God will deign
To visit oft the dwellings of just Men 570
Delighted, and with frequent intercourse
Thither will send his winged messengers
On errands of supernal grace. So sung
The glorious train ascending: he through Heav'n,
That open'd wide her blazing portals, led 575
To God's eternal house direct the way,
A broad and ample road, whose dust is gold

And pavement stars, as stars to thee appear,
 Seen in the galaxy, that milky way,
 Which nightly as a circling zone thou seest 580
 Powder'd with stars. And now on Earth the seventh
 Evening arose in Eden, for the sun
 Was set, and Twilight from the East came on,
 Forerunning Night; when at the holy mount
 Of Heav'n's high-seated top, th' imperial throne 585
 Of Godhead, fix'd for ever firm and sure,
 The filial Power arriv'd, and sat him down
 With his great Father, for he also went
 Invisible, yet stay'd, (such privilege
 Hath Omnipresence) and the work ordain'd, 590
 Author and end of all things, and from work
 Now resting, blest'd and hallow'd the sev'nth day,
 As resting on that day from all his work,
 But not in silence holy kept; the harp
 Had work and rested not, the solemn pipe, 595
 And dulcimer, all organs of sweet stop,
 All sounds on fret by string or golden wire
 Temper'd soft tunings, intermix'd with voice
 Choral or unison: of incense clouds
 Fuming from golden censers hid the mount. 600
 Creation and the six days' acts they sung,
 Great are thy works, Jehovah, infinite
 Thy power; what thought can measure thee or tongue
 Relate thee? greater now in thy return
 Than from the giant angels; thee that day 605

Thy thunders magnify'd; but to create
Is greater than created to destroy.
Who can impair thee, mighty King, or bound
Thy empire? easily the proud attempt
Of spi'rits apostate and their counsels vain. 610
Thou hast repell'd, while impiously they thought
Thee to diminish, and from thee withdraw
The number of thy worshippers. Who seeks
To lessen thee, against his purpose serves
To manifest the more thy might: his evil 615
Thou usest, and from thence creat'st more good.
Witness this new-made World, another Heav'n
From Heaven gate not far, founded in view
On the clear hyaline, the glassy sea;
Of amplitude almost immense, with stars 620
Numerous, and every star perhaps a world
Of destin'd habitation; but thou know'st
Their seasons: among these the seat of men,
Earth with her nether ocean circumfus'd, 624
Their pleasant dwelling place. Thrice happy men,
And sons of men, whom God hath thus advanc'd,
Created in his image, there to dwell
And worship him, and in reward to rule
Over his works, on Earth, in sea, or air,
And multiply a race of worshippers 630
Holy and just: thrice happy if they know
Their happiness, and persevere upright.

So sung they, and the empyrean rung

Volume II.

F

With halleluiahs: thus was sabbath kept.
And thy request think now fulfill'd, that ask'd 635
How first this World and face of things began,
And what before thy memory was done
From the beginning, that posterity
Inform'd by thee might know; if else thou seek'st
Ought, not surpassing human measure, say. 640

The End of the Seventh Book.



PARADISE LOST.

BOOK VIII.

The Argument.

Adam inquires concerning celestial motions, is doubtfully answer'd, and exhorted to search rather things more worthy of knowledge: Adam assents, and still desirous to detain Raphael, relates to him what he remember'd since his own creation, his placing in Paradise, his talk with God concerning solitude and fit society, his first meeting and nuptials with Eve, his discourse with the angel thereupon; who after admonitions repeated departs.

THE angel ended, and in Adam's ear
So charming left his voice, that he a while
Thought him still speaking, still stood fix'd to hear;
Then as new wak'd thus gratefully reply'd.

What thanks sufficient, or what recompense
Equal have I to render thee, divine
Historian, who thus largely hast allay'd
The thirst I had of knowledge, and vouchsaf'd
This friendly condescension to relate
Things else by me unsearchable, now heard
With wonder, but delight, and, as is due,
With glory attributed to the high
Creator? something yet of doubt remains,
Which only thy solution can resolve.
When I behold this goodly frame, this world
Of Heav'n and Earth consisting, and compute
Their magnitudes, this Earth, a spot, a grain,

An atom, with the firmament compar'd
And all her number'd stars, that seem to roll
Spaces incomprehensible (for such 20
Their distance argues and their swift return
Diurnal) merely to officiate light
Round this opacous Earth, this punctual spot,
One day and night, in all their vast survey
Useless besides; reasoning I oft admire, 25
How Nature wise and frugal could commit
Such disproportions, with superfluous hand
So many nobler bodies to create,
Greater so manifold to this one use,
For ought appears, and on their orbs impose 30
Such restless revolution day by day
Repeated, while the sedentary Earth,
That better might with far less compass move,
Serv'd by more noble than herself, attains
Her end without least motion, and receives, 35
As tribute, such a sumless journey brought
Of incorporeal speed, her warmth and light;
Speed, to describe whose swiftness number fails.

So spake our Sire, and by his count'nance seem'd
Entr'ing on studious thoughts abstruse, which Eye 40
Perceiving where she sat retir'd in sight,
With lowliness majestic from her seat,
And grace that won who saw to wish her stay,
Rose, and went forth among her fruits and flowers,
To visit how they prosper'd, bud and bloom, 45

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CHAUCER to CHURCHILL.



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Book V

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Her nursery; they at her coming sprung,
And touch'd by her fair tendence gladlier grew.
Yet went she not, as not with such discourse
Delighted, or not capable her ear
Of what was high: such pleasure she reserv'd, 50
Adam relating, life sole auditress;
Her husband the relator she preferr'd
Before the angel, and of him to ask
Chose rather; he, she knew, would intermix
Grateful digressions, and solve high dispute 55
With conjugal caresses; from his lip
Not words alone pleas'd her. O when meet now
Such pairs, in love and mutual honour join'd?
With goddess-like demeanour forth she went,
Not unattended, for on her as queen 60
A pomp of winning Graces waited still,
And from about her shot darts of desire
Into all eyes to wish her still in sight.
And Raphael now to Adam's doubt propos'd
Benevolent and facil thus reply'd. 65

To ask or search I blame thee not, for Heav'n
Is as the book of God before thee set,
Wherein to read his wondrous works, and learn
His seasons, hours, or days, or months, or years:
This to attain, whether Heav'n move or Earth, 70
Imports not, if thou reckon right; the rest
From man or angel the great Architect
Did wisely to conceal, and not divulge

His secrets to be scann'd by them who ought
Rather admire; or if they list to try 75
Conjecture, he his fabric of the heav'n's
Hath left to their disputes, perhaps to move
His laughter at their quaint opinions wide
Hereafter, when they come to model Heav'n
And calculate the stars, how they will wield 80
The mighty frame, how build, unbuild, contrive
To save appearances, how gird the sphere
With centric and eccentric scribled o'er,
Cycle and epicycle, orb in orb:
Already by thy reasoning this I guess, 85
Who art to lead thy offspring, and supposest
That bodies bright and greater should not serve
The less not bright, nor Heav'n such journeys run,
Earth sitting still, when she alone receives
The benefit: Consider first, that great 90
Or bright infers not excellence: the Earth
Though, in comparison of Heav'n, so small,
Nor glist'ring, may of solid good contain
More plenty than the Sun that barren shines,
Whose virtue on itself works no effect, 95
But in the fruitful Earth; there first receiv'd
His beams, unactive else, their vigor find.
Yet not to Earth are those bright luminaries
Officious, but to thee Earth's habitant.
And for the Heav'n's wide circuit, let it speak 100
The Maker's high magnificence, who built

So spacious, and his line stretch'd out so far;
That man may know he dwells not in his own;
An edifice too large for him to fill,
Lodg'd in a small partition, and the rest 105
Ordain'd for uses to his Lord best known.
The swiftness of those circles attribute,
Though numberless, to his omnipotence,
That to corporeal substances could add
Speed almost spiritual; me thou think'st not slow, 110
Who since the morning hour set out from Heav'n
Where God resides, and ere mid-day arriv'd
In Eden, distance inexpressible
By numbers that have name. But this I urge,
Admitting motion in the Heav'ns, to show 115
Invalid that which thee to doubt it mov'd;
Not that I so affirm, though so it seem
To thee who hast thy dwelling here on Earth.
God to remove his ways from human sense,
Plac'd Heav'n from Earth so far, that earthly sight,
If it presume, might err in things too high, 121
And no advantage gain. What if the sun
Be center to the world, and other stars
By his attractive virtue and their own
Incited, dance about him various rounds? 125
Their wand'ring course now high, now low, then hid,
Progressive, retrograde, or standing still,
In six thou seest, and what if seventh to these.
The planet Earth, so steadfast though she seem,

Insensibly three different motions move? 130
Which else to several spheres thou must ascribe
Mov'd contrary with thwart obliquities,
Or save the Sun his labor, and that swift
Nocturnal and diurnal rhomb suppos'd,
Invisible else above all stars, the wheel 135
Of day and night; which needs not thy belief,
If Earth industrious of herself fetch Day
Travelling East, and with her part averse
From the sun's beam meet Night, her other part
Still luminous by his ray. What if that light 140
Sent from her through the wide transpicious air,
To the terrestrial Moon be as a star
Inlightning her by day, as she by night
This Earth? reciprocal, if land be there,
Fields and inhabitants: her spots thou seest 145
As clouds, and clouds may rain, and rain produce
Fruits in her soften'd soil, for some to eat
Allotted there; and other suns perhaps
With their attendant moons thou wilt descry
Communicating male and female light, 150
Which two great sexes animate the World,
Stor'd in each orb perhaps with some that live.
For such vast room in Nature unpossess'd
By living soul, desert and desolate,
Only to shine, yet scarce to contribute 155
Each orb a glimpse of light, convey'd so far
Down to this habitable, which returns

Light back to them, is obvious to dispute:
But whether thus these things, or whether not,
Whether the sun predominant in Heav'n
Rise on the Earth, or Earth rise on the sun,
He from the East his flaming road begin,
Or she from West her silent course advance
With inoffensive pace that spinning sleeps
On her soft axle, while she paces even
And bears thee soft with the smooth air along,
Solicit not thy thoughts with matters hid,
Leave them to God above, him serve and fear;
Of other creatures, as him pleases best,
Wherever plac'd, let him dispose: joy thou
In what he gives to thee, this Paradise
And thy fair Eye; Heav'n is for thee too high
To know what passes there; be lowly wise:
Think only what concerns thee and thy being;
Dream not of other worlds, what creatures there
Live, in what state, condition or degree,
Contented that thus far hath been reveal'd
Not of Earth only but of highest Heav'n.

To whom thus Adam, clear'd of doubt, reply'd.
How fully hast thou satisfy'd me, pure
Intelligence of Heav'n, angel serene,
And freed from intricacies, taught to live
The easiest way, nor with perplexing thoughts
To interrupt the sweet of life, from which
God hath bid dwell far off all anxious cares,

And not molest us, unless we ourselves
Seek them with wand'ring thoughts, and notions vain.
But apt the mind or fancy is to rove;
Uncheck'd, and of her roving is no end;
Till warn'd, or by experience taught, she learn, 190
That not to know at large of things remote
From use, obscure and subtle, but to know
That which before us lies in daily life,
Is the prime wisdom; what is more, is fume,
Or emptiness, or fond impertinence, 195
And renders us in things that most concern
Unpractis'd, unprepar'd, and still to seek.
Therefore from this high pitch let us descend
A lower flight, and speak of things at hand
Useful, whence haply mention may arise 200
Of something not unseasonable to ask
By sufferance, and thy wonted favor deign'd.
Thee I have heard relating what was done
Ere my remembrance: now hear me relate
My story, which perhaps thou hast not heard; 205
And day is not yet spent; till then thou seest
How subtly to detain thee I devise,
Inviting thee to hear while I relate,
Fond, were it not in hope of thy reply:
For while I sit with thee, I seem in Heav'n, 210
And sweeter thy discourse is to my ear
Than fruits of palm-tree pleasantest to thirst
And hunger both, from labor, at the hour

Of sweet repast; they satiate, and soon fill
Though pleasant, but thy words with grace divine
Imbued, bring to their sweetness no satiety. 216
To whom thus Raphael answer'd heav'nly meek.
Nor are thy lips ungraceful, Sire of Men,
Nor tongue ineloquent; for God on thee
Abundantly his gifts hath also pour'd 220
Inward and outward both, his image fair:
Speaking or mute all comeliness and grace
Attends thee, and each word, each motion forms;
Nor less think we in Heav'n of thee on Earth
Than of our fellow-servant, and inquire 225
Gladly into the ways of God with Man:
For God we see hath honor'd thee, and set
On man his equal love: say therefore on;
For I that day was absent, as beset,
Bound on a voyage uncouth and obscure, 230
Far on excursion tow'ard the gates of Hell;
Squar'd in full legion (such command we had)
To see that none thence issued forth a spy,
Or enemy, while God was in his work,
Lest he incens'd at such eruption bold, 235
Destruction with creation might have mix'd.
Not that they durst without his leave attempt,
But us he sends upon his high behests
For state, as Sovran King, and to inure
Our prompt obedience. Fast we found, fast shut 240
The dismal gates, and barricado'd strong;

But long ere our approaching heard within
Noise, other than the sound of dance or song,
Torment, and loud lament, and furious rage.
Glad we return'd up to the coasts of Light 245
Ere sabbath evening: so we had in charge.
But thy relation now; for I attend,
Pleas'd with thy words no less than thou with mine.

So spake the godlike Power, and thus our Sire.
For man to tell how human life began
Is hard; for who himself beginning knew?
Desire with thee still longer to converse
Induc'd me. As new wak'd from soundest sleep
Soft on the flowery herb I found me laid
In balmy sweat, which with his beams the sun 255
Soon dry'd, and on the reeking moisture fed.
Strait toward Heav'n my wond'ring eyes I turn'd,
And gaz'd a while the ample sky, till rais'd
By quick instinctive motion up I sprung,
As thitherward endeavoring, and upright, 260
Stood on my feet; about me round I saw
Hill, dale, and shady woods, and sunny plains,
And liquid lapse of murm'ring streams; by these,
Creatures that liv'd and mov'd, and walk'd, or flew,
Birds on the branches warbling; all things smil'd, 265
With fragrance and with joy my heart o'erflow'd.
Myself I then perus'd, and limb by limb
Survey'd, and sometimes went, and sometimes ran
With supple joints, as lively vigor led:

But who I was, or where, or from what cause, 270
Knew not; to speak I try'd, and forthwith spake;
My tongue obey'd, and readily could name
Whate'er I saw. Thou Sun, said I, fair light,
And thou inlighten'd Earth, so fresh and gay,
Ye Hills, and Dales, ye Rivers, Woods, and Plains,
And ye that live and move, fair Creatures tell, 276
Tell, if ye saw, how came I thus, how here?
Not of myself; by some great Maker then,
In goodness and in power præeminent;
Tell me, how may I know him, how adore, 280
From whom I have that thus I move and live,
And feel that I am happier than I know.
While thus I call'd, and stray'd I knew not whither,
From where I first drew air, and first beheld
This happy light, when answer none return'd, 285
On a green shady bank profuse of flowers
Pensive I sat me down; there gentle Sleep
First found me, and with soft oppression seiz'd
My droused sense, untroubled, though I thought
I then was passing to my former state 290
Insensible, and forthwith to dissolve:
When suddenly stood at my head a Dream,
Whose inward apparition gently mov'd
My fancy to believe I yet had being,
And liv'd: One came, methought, of shape divine,
And said, Thy mansion wants thee, Adam, rise, 296
First Man, of men innumerable ordain'd

First Father, call'd by thee I come thy guide
'To the Garden of Bliss, thy seat prepar'd.
So saying, by the hand he took me rais'd, 300
And over fields and waters, as in air
Smooth sliding without step, last led me up
A woody mountain; whose high top was plain,
A circuit wide, inclos'd, with goodliest trees
Planted, with walks, and bowers, that what I saw 305
Of Earth before scarce pleasant seem'd. Each tree
Loaden with fairest fruit that hung to th' eye
'Tempting, stirr'd in me sudden appetite
'To pluck and eat; whereat I wak'd, and found
Before mine eyes all real, as the dream 310
Had lively shadow'd: here had new begun
My wand'ring, had not he who was my guide
Up hither, from among the trees appear'd,
Presence divine. Rejoicing, but with awe,
In adoration at his feet I fell 315
Submiss: he rear'd me', and Whom thou sought'st I am,
Said mildly, Author of all this thou seest
Above, or round about thee, or beneath,
'This Paradise I give thee, count it thine
'To till and keep, and of the fruit to eat: 320
Of every tree that in the garden grows
Eat freely with glad heart; fear here no dearth:
But of the tree whose operation brings
Knowledge of good and ill, which I have set
'The pledge of thy obedience and thy faith, 325

Amid the garden by the tree of Life,
Remember what I warn thee, shun to taste,
And shun the bitter consequence: for know,
The day thou eat'st thereof, my sole command
Transgress'd, inevitably thou shalt die, 330
From that day mortal, and this happy state
Shalt lose, expell'd from hence into a world
Of woe and sorrow. Sternly he pronounc'd.
The rigid interdiction, which resounds
Yet dreadful in mine ear, though in my choice 335
Not to incur; but soon his clear aspect
Return'd, and gracious purpose thus renew'd.
Not only these fair bounds, but all the Earth
To thee and to thy race I give; as lords
Possess it, and all things that therein live, 340
Or live in sea, or air, beast, fish, and fowl.
In sign whereof each bird and beast behold
After their kinds; I bring them to receive
From thee their names, and pay thee fealty
With low subjection; understand the same 345
Of fish within their watry residence,
Not hither summon'd, since they cannot change
Their element to draw the thinner air.
As thus he spake, each bird and beast behold
Approaching two and two, these cowering low 350
With blandishment, each bird stoop'd on his wing.
I nam'd them, as they pass'd, and understood
Their nature, with such knowledge God indued

My sudden apprehension : but in these
I found not what methought I wanted still; 355
And to the heav'nly Vision thus presum'd.

O by what name, for thou above all these,
Above Mankind, or ought than Mankind higher,
Surpassest far my naming, how may I
Adore thee, Author of this universe, 360
And all this good to man? for whose well being
So amply, and with hands so liberal
Thou hast provided all things : but with me
I see not who partakes. In solitude
What happiness, who can enjoy alone, 365
Or all enjoying, what contentment find?
Thus I presumptuous; and the Vision bright,
As with a smile more brighten'd, thus reply'd.

What call'st thou Solitude? is not the Earth
With various living creatures, and the air 370
Replenish'd, and all these at thy command
To come and play before thee? know'st thou not
Their language and their ways? they also know,
And reason not contemptibly; with these
Find pastime, and bear rule; thy realm is large. 375
So spake the universal Lord, and seem'd
So ord'ring. I with leave of speech implor'd,
And humble deprecation thus reply'd.

Let not my words offend thee, heav'nly Power;
My Maker, be propitious while I speak. 380
Hast thou not made me here thy substitute,

And these inferior far beneath me set?
Among unequals what society
Can sort, what harmony or true delight?
Which must be mutual, in proportion due 385
Giv'n and receiv'd; but in disparity
The one intense, the other still remiss
Cannot well suit with either, but soon prove
Tedious alike: of fellowship I speak
Such as I seek, fit to participate 390
All rational delight, wherein the brute
Cannot be human comfort; they rejoice
Each with their kind, lion with lions;
So fitly them in pairs thou hast combin'd;
Much less can bird with beast, or fish with fowl 395
So well converse, nor with the ox the ape;
Worse then can man with beast, and least of all.
Where to th' Almighty answer'd not displeas'd.
A nice and subtle happiness I see
Thou to thyself propos'st, in the choice 400
Of thy associates, Adam, and wilt taste
No pleasure, though in pleasure, solitary.
What think'st thou then of me, and this my state?
Seem I to thee sufficiently possess'd
Of happiness, or not? who am alone 405
From all eternity, for none I know
Second to me or like, equal much less.
How have I then with whom to hold converse
Save with the creatures which I made, and those

To me inferior, infinite descents 410
Beneath what other creatures are to thee?

He ceas'd, I lowly answer'd. To attain
The highth and depth of thy eternal ways
All human thoughts come short, Supreme of things;
Thou in thyself art perfect, and in thee 415

Is no deficiency found; not so is man,
But in degree, the cause of his desire
By conversation with his like to help,
Or solace his defects. No need that thou
Shouldst propagate, already infinite, 420

And through all numbers absolute, though one;
But man by number is to manifest
His single imperfection, and beget
Like of his like, his image multiply'd,
In unity defective, which requires 425
Collateral love, and dearest amity.

Thou in thy secrecy although alone,
Best with thyself accompanied, seek'st not
Social communication, yet so pleas'd,
Canst raise thy creature to what highth thou wilt. 430
Of union or communion, deify'd;

I by conversing cannot these erect
From prone, nor in their ways complacence find.
Thus I imbolden'd spake, and freedom us'd
Permissive, and acceptance found, which gain'd 435
This answer from the gracious voice divine.

Thus far to try thee, Adam, I was pleas'd,

And find thee knowing not of beasts alone,
Which thou hast rightly nam'd, but of thyself,
Expressing well the spi'rit within thee free, 440
My image, not imparted to the brute,
Whose fellowship therefore unmeet for thee
Good reason was thou freely shouldst dislike,
And be so minded still; I, ere thou spak'st,
Knew it not good for man to be alone, 445
And no such company as then thou saw'st
Intended thee, for trial only brought,
To see how thou could'st judge of fit and meet:
What next I bring shall please thee, be assur'd,
Thy likeness, thy fit help, thy other self, 450
Thy wish exactly to thy heart's desire.

He ended, or I heard no more, for now
My earthly by his heav'nly overpower'd,
Which it had long stood under, strain'd to th' highth :
In that celestial colloquy sublime, 455
As with an object that excels the sense
Dazzled and spent, sunk down, and sought repair
Of Sleep, which instantly fell on me, call'd
By Nature as in aid, and clos'd mine eyes.
Mine eyes he clos'd, but open left the cell 460
Of fancy my internal sight, by which
Abstract as in a trance methought I saw,
Though sleeping, where I lay, and saw the shape
Still glorious before whom awake I stood :
Who stooping open'd my left side, and took 465

From thence a rib, with cordial spirits warm,
And life-blood streaming fresh; wide was the wound,
But suddenly with flesh fill'd up and heal'd :
The rib he form'd and fashion'd with his hands;
Under his forming hands a creature grew 470
Manlike, but different sex, so lovely fair,
That what seem'd fair in all the world, seem'd now
Mean, or in her summ'd up, in her contain'd
And in her looks, which from that time infus'd
Sweetness into my heart, unfelt before, 475
And into all things from her air inspir'd
The spi'rit of Love and amorous delight.
She disappear'd, and left me dark; I wak'd
To find her, or for ever to deplore
Her loss, and other pleasures all abjure : 480
When out of hope, behold her, not far off,
Such as I saw her in my dream, adorn'd
With what all Earth or Heaven could bestow
To make her amiable : on she came,
Led by her heav'nly Maker, though unseen, 485
And guided by his voice, nor uninform'd
Of nuptial sanctity and marriage rites :
Grace was in all her steps, Heav'n in her eye,
In every gesture dignity and love.
I overjoy'd could not forbear aloud. 490
This turn hath made amends; thou hast fulfill'd
Thy words, Creator bounteous and benign,
Giver of all things fair, but fairest this

Of all thy gifts, nor enviest. I now see
Bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh, myself 495
Before me; Woman is her name, of Man
Extracted; for this cause he shall forego
Father and mother, and to' his wife adhere;
And they shall be one flesh, one heart, one soul.

She heard me thus, and though divinely brought,
Yet innocence and virgin modesty, 501
Her virtue and the conscience of her worth,
That would be woo'd, and not unfought be won,
Not obvious, not obtrusive, but retir'd,
The more desirable, or to say all, 505
Nature herself, though pure of sinful thought,
Wrought in her so, that seeing me, she turn'd;
I follow'd her, she what was honor knew,
And with obsequious majesty approv'd
My pleaded reason. To the nuptial bower 510
I led her blushing like the Morn: all Heav'n,
And happy constellations on that hour
Shed their selectest influence; the Earth
Gave sign of gratulation, and each hill;
Joyous the birds; fresh gales and gentle airs 515
Whisper'd it to the woods, and from their wings
Flung rose, flung odors from the spicy shrub,
Disporting, till the amorous bird of night
Sung spousal, and bid haste the evening star
On his hill top, to light the bridal lamp. 520
Thus have I told thee all my state, and brought

My story to the sum of earthly bliss
Which I enjoy, and must confess to find
In all things else delight indeed, but such
As us'd or not, works in the mind no change, 525
Nor vehement desire, these delicacies
I mean of taste, sight, smell, herbs, fruits, and flowers,
Walks, and the melody of birds; but here
Far otherwise, transported I behold,
Transported touch; here passion first I felt, 530
Commotion strange, in all enjoyments else
Superior and unmov'd, here only weak
Against the charm of Beauty's powerful glance.
Or Nature fail'd in me, and left some part
Not proof enough such object to sustain, 535
Or from my side subducting, took perhaps
More than enough; at least on her bestow'd
Too much of ornament, in outward show
Elaborate, of inward less exact.
For well I understand in the prime end 540
Of Nature her th' inferior, in the mind
And inward faculties, which most excel,
In outward also her resembling less
His image who made both, and less expressing
The character of that dominion given 545
O'er other creatures; yet when I approach
Her loveliness, so absolute she seems
And in herself complete, so well to know
Her own, that what she wills to do or say

Seems wisest, virtuousest, discreetest, best; 550
All higher knowledge in her presence falls
Degraded, Wisdom in discourse with her
Loses discountenanc'd, and like Folly shows;
Authority and Reason on her wait,
As one intended first, not after made 555
Occasionally; and to consummate all,
Greatness of mind, and Noblenesse their seat
Build in her loveliest, and create an awe
About her, as a guard angelic plac'd.

To whom the angel with contracted brow, 560
Accuse not Nature, she hath done her part;
Do thou but thine, and be not diffident
Of Wisdom, she deserts thee not, if thou
Dismiss not her, when most thou need'st her nigh,
By attributing overmuch to things 565
Less excellent, as thou thyself perceiv'st.
For what admir'st thou, what transports thee so,
An outside? fair no doubt, and worthy well
'Thy cherishing, thy honoring, and thy love,
Not thy subjection: weigh with her thyself; 570
'Then value: oft-times nothing profits more
'Than self-esteem, grounded on just and right
Well manag'd; of that skill the more thou know'st,
'The more she will acknowledge thee her head,
And to realities yield all her shows: 575
Made so adorn for thy delight the more,
So awful, that with honor thou may'st love

Thy mate, who sees when thou art seen least wise.
 But if the sense of touch whereby mankind
 Is propagated from such dear delight 580
 Beyond all other, think the same vouchsaf'd
 To cattel and each beast; which would not be
 To them made common and divulg'd, if ought
 Therein enjoy'd were worthy to subdue
 The soul of man, or passion in him move. 585
 What high'er in her society thou find'st
 Attractive, human, rational, love still;
 In loving thou dost well, in passion not,
 Wherein true love consists not; Love refines
 The thoughts, and heart enlarges, hath his seat 590
 In rea'son, and is judicious, is the scale
 By which to heav'nly love thou may'st ascend,
 Not sunk in carnal pleasure, for which cause
 Among the beasts no mate for thee was found.

To whom thus half abash'd Adam reply'd. 595
 Neither her outside form'd so fair, nor ought
 In procreation common to all kinds
 (Though higher of the genial bed by far,
 And with mysterious reverence I deem)
 So much delights me, as those graceful acts, 600
 Those thousand decencies that daily flow
 From all her words and actions mix'd with love
 And sweet compliance, which declare unfeign'd
 Union of mind, or in us both one soul;
 Harmony to behold in wedded pair 605

More grateful than harmonious sound to th' ear.
Yet these subject not; I to thee disclose
What inward thence I feel; not therefore foil'd,
Who meet with various objects, from the sense
Variouſly representing; yet ſtill free 610
Approve the beſt, and follow' what I approve.
'To love thou blaſt me not, for love thou ſay'ſt
Leads up to Heav'n, is both the way and guide;
Bear with me then, if lawful what I aſk;
Love not the heav'nly ſpi'rits, and how their love 615
Expresſs they, by looks only, or do they mix
Irradiance, virtual or immediate touch?

To whom the angel with a ſmile that glow'd
Celeſtial roſy red, Love's proper hue,
Answer'd. Let it ſuffice thee that thou know'ſt 620
Us happy', and without love no happineſs,
Whatever pure thou in the body' enjoy'ſt
(And pure thou wert created) we enjoy
In eminence, and obſtacle find none
Of membrane, joint, or limb, excluſive bars; 625
Eaſier than air with air, if ſpi'rits embrace,
Total they mix, union of pure with pure
Deſiring; nor reſtrain'd conveyance need
As fleſh to mix with fleſh, or ſoul with ſoul.
But I can now no more; the parting ſun 630
Beyond the Earth's green cape and verdant ileſ
Heſperian ſets, my ſignal to depart.
Be ſtrong, live happy', and love, but firſt of all

Him whom to love is to obey, and keep
His great command; take heed lest passion sway 635
Thy judgment to do ought, which else free will
Would not admit; thine and of all thy sons
The weal or woe in thee is plac'd; beware.
I in thy persevering shall rejoice,
And all the Blest: stand fast; to stand or fall 640
Free in thine own arbitrement it lies.
Perfect within, no outward aid require;
And all temptation to transgress repel.

So saying, he arose; whom Adam thus
Follow'd with benediction. Since to part, 645
Go heav'nly guest, ethereal messenger,
Sent from whose sovran goodness I adore.
Gentle to me and affable hath been
Thy condescension, and shall be' honor'd ever
With grateful memory: thou to mankind 650
Be good and friendly still, and oft return.

So parted they, the angel up to Heav'n
From the thick shade, and Adam to his bower.

The End of the Eighth Book.

PARADISE LOST.

BOOK IX.

The Argument.

Satan having compass'd the Earth, with meditated guile returns as a mist by night into Paradise, enters into the serpent sleeping. Adam and Eve in the morning go forth to their labors, which Eve proposes to divide in several places, each laboring apart: Adam consents not; alledging the danger, lest that enemy, of whom they were forewarn'd, should attempt her found alone: Eve loath to be thought not circumspect or firm enough, urges her going apart, she rather desirous to make trial of her strength; Adam at last yields: the serpent finds her alone; his subtle approach, first gazing, then speaking, with much flattery extolling Eve above all other creatures, Eve wondering to hear the serpent speak, asks how he attain'd to human speech and such understanding not till now; the serpent answers, that by tasting of a certain tree in the garden he attain'd both to speech and reason, till then void of both: Eve requires him to bring her to that tree, and finds it to be the tree of Knowledge forbidden: the serpent now grown bolder, with many wiles and arguments induces her at length to eat; she pleas'd with the taste deliberates a while whether to impart thereof to Adam or not, at last brings him of the fruit, relates what persuaded her to eat thereof: Adam at first amaz'd, but perceiving her lost, resolves through vehemence of love to perish with her: and extenuating the trespass eats also of the fruit: the effects thereof in them both; they seek to cover their nakedness; then fall to variance and accusation of one another.

No more of talk where God or angel guest
 With man, as with his friend, familiar us'd
 To sit indulgent, and with him partake
 Rural repast, permitting him the while
 Venial discourse unblam'd: I now must change
 Those notes to tragic; foul distrust, and breach
 Disloyal on the part of man, revolt,

And disobedience : on the part of Heav'n
Now alienated, distance and distaste,
Anger and just rebuke, and judgment given, 10
That brought into this world a world of woe,
Sin and her shadow Death, and Misery
Death's harbinger : sad task, yet argument
Not less but more heroic than the wrath
Of stern Achilles on his foe pursu'd 15
Thrice fugitive about Troy wall ; or rage
Of Turnus for Lavinia disespous'd,
Or Neptune's ire or Juno's, that so long
Perplex'd the Greek and Cytherea's son ;
If answerable stile I can obtain 20
Of my celestial Patroness, who deigns
Her nightly visitation unimplor'd,
And dictates to me slumb'ring, or inspires
Easy my unpremeditated verse ;
Since first this subject for heroic song 25
Pleas'd me long chusing, and beginning late ;
Not sedulous by nature to indite
Wars, hitherto the only argument
Heroic deem'd, chief mast'ry to dissect
With long and tedious havoc fabled knights 30
In battels feign'd ; the better fortitude
Of Patience and heroic Martyrdom
Unsung ; or to describe races and games,
Or tilting furniture, imblazon'd shields,
Impresses quaint, caparisons and steeds ; 35

Bases and tinsel trappings, gorgeous knights
 At joust and torneament; then marshal'd feast
 Serv'd up in hall with sewers, and sentshals;
 The skill of artifice or office mean,
 Not that which justly gives heroic name
 To person or to poem. Me of these
 Nor skill'd nor studious, higher argument
 Remains, sufficient of itself to raise
 That name, unless an age too late, or cold
 Climate, or years damp my intended wing
 Depress'd, and much they may, if all be mine,
 Not hers who brings it nightly to my ear.

The sun was sunk, and after him the star
 Of Hesperus, whose office is to bring
 Twilight upon the Earth, short arbiter
 'Twixt day and night, and now from end to end
 Night's hemisphere had veil'd th' horizon round:
 When Satan who late fled before the threats
 Of Gabriel out of Eden, now improv'd
 In meditated fraud and malice, bent
 On man's destruction, maugre what might hap
 Of heavier on himself, fearless return'd.
 By night he fled, and at midnight return'd
 From compassing the Earth, cautious of day,
 Since Uriel regent of the sun descry'd
 His entrance, and forewarn'd the cherubim
 That kept their watch; thence full of anguish driven,
 The space of sev'n continued nights he rode

With Darknes, thrice the equinoctial line
He circled, four times cross'd the can of Night 65
From pole to pole, traversing each colure;
On th' eighth return'd, and on the coast averse
From entrance or cherubic watch, by stealth
Found unsuspected way. There was a place, 69
Now not, tho' Sin, not Time, first wrought the change,
Where Tigris at the foot of Paradise
Into a gulf shot under ground, till part
Rose up a fountain by the tree of Life;
In with the river sunk, and with it rose
Satan involv'd in rising mist, then sought 75
Where to lie hid; sea he had search'd and land
From Eden over Pontus, and the pool
Mæotis, up beyond the river Ob;
Downward as far antarctic; and in length
West from Orontes to the ocean barr'd 80
At Darien, thence to the land where flows
Ganges and Indus: thus the orb he roam'd
With narrow search, and with inspection deep
Consider'd every creature, which of all
Most opportune might serve his wiles, and found 85
The serpent subtlest beast of all the field.
Him after long debate, irresolute
Of thoughts revolv'd, his final sentence chose
Fit vessel, fittest imp of fraud, in whom
To enter, and his dark suggestions hide 90
From sharpest sight: for in the wily snake,

Whatever sleights none would suspicious mark,
As from his wit and native subtlety
Proceeding, which in other beasts observ'd
Doubt might beget of diabolic power
Active within beyond the sense of brute.
Thus he resolv'd, but first from inward grief
His bursting passion into plaints thus pour'd:

O Earth, how like to Heav'n, if not prefer'd
More justly, seat worthier of gods, is built
With second thoughts, reforming what was old!
For what god after better worse would build?
Terrestrial Heav'n, danc'd round by other heav'ns
That shine, yet bear their bright officious lamps,
Light above light, for thee alone, as seems
In thee concentrating all their precious beams
Of sacred influence! As God in Heav'n
Is center, yet extends to all, so thou
Centring receiv'st from all those orbs; in thee,
Not in themselves, all their known virtue' appears
Productive in herb, plant, and nobler birth
Of creatures animate with gradual life
Of growth, sense, reason, all summ'd up in man.
With what delight could I have walk'd thee round,
If I could joy in ought, sweet interchange
Of hill, and valley, rivers, woods and plains,
Now land, now sea, and shores with forest crown'd,
Rocks, dens, and caves! but I in none of these
Find place or refuge; and the more I see

Pleasures about me, so much more I feel 120
 Torment within me, as from the hateful siege
 Of contraries; all good to me becomes
 Bane, and in Heav'n much worse would be my state.
 But neither here seek I, no nor in Heav'n
 To dwell, unless by mast'ring Heav'n's Supreme; 125
 Nor hope to be myself less miserable
 By what I seek, but others to make such
 As I, though thereby worse to me redound:
 For only in destroying I find ease
 To my relentless thoughts; and him destroyed, 130
 Or won to what may work his utter loss,
 For whom all this was made, all this will soon
 Follow, as to him link'd in weal or woe,
 In woe then; that Destruction wide may range:
 To me shall be the glory sole among 135
 Th' infernal powers, in one day to have marr'd
 What he Almighty stil'd, six nights and days
 Continued making, and who knows how long
 Before had been contriving, though perhaps
 Not longer than since I in one night freed 140
 From servitude inglorious well nigh half
 Th' angelic name, and thinner left the throng
 Of his adorers: he to be aveng'd,
 And to repair his numbers thus impair'd,
 Whether such virtue spent of old now fail'd 145
 More angels to create, if they at least
 Are his created, or to spite us more,

Determin'd to advance into our room
A creature form'd of earth, and him endow,
Exalted from so base original, 150
With heav'nly spoils, our spoils: what he decreed
He' effected; man he made, and for him built
Magnificent this world, and Earth his seat,
Him lord pronounc'd, and, O indignity!
Subjected to his service angel wings, 155
And flaming ministers to watch and tend
Their earthly charge: of these the vigilance
I dread, and to elude, thus wrapt in mist
Of midnight vapor glide obscure, and pry
In every bush and brake, where hap may find 160
The serpent sleeping, in whose mazy folds
To hide me, and the dark intent I bring.
O foul descent! that I who erst contended
With gods to sit the high'est, am now constrain'd
Into a beast, and mix'd with bestial slime, 165
This essence to incarnate and imbrute,
That to the highth of Deity aspir'd;
But what will not Ambition and Revenge
Descend to? who aspires must down as low
As high he soar'd, obnoxious first or last 170
To basest things. Revenge, at first though sweet,
Bitter ere long back on itself recoils;
Let it; I reck not, so it light well aim'd,
Since higher I fall short, on him who next
Provokes my envy, this new favourite 175

Of Heav'n, this Man of Clay, son of Despise,
Whom us the more to spite his Maker rais'd
From dust: spite then with spite is best repaid.

So saying, through each thicket dank or dry,
Like a black mist low creeping, he held on 180
His midnight search, where soonest he might find
The serpent: him fast sleeping soon he found
In labyrinth of many a round self-roll'd,
His head the midst, well stor'd with subtle wiles:
Not yet in horrid shade or dismal den, 185
Nor nocent yet, but on the grassy herb
Fearless unfeared he slept: in at his mouth
The Devil enter'd, and his brutal sense,
In heart or head, possessing soon inspir'd
With act intelligential; but his sleep 190
Disturb'd not, waiting close th' approach of morn.
Now when as sacred Light began to dawn
In Eden on the humid flowers, that breath'd
Their morning incense, when all things that breathe,
From th' Earth's great altar send up silent praise 195
To the Creator, and his nostrils fill
With grateful smell, forth came the Human Pair,
And join'd their vocal worship to the quire
Of creatures wanting voice; that done, partake
The season, prime for sweetest fents and airs: 200
Then commune how that day they best may ply
Their growing work: for much their work outgrew
The hands' dispatch of two gard'ning so wide,

And Eve first to her husband thus began.

Adam, well may we labor still to dress 205
This garden, still to tend plant, herb and flower,
Our pleasant task injoin'd, but till more hands
Aid us, the work under our labor grows,
Luxurious by restraint; what we by day
Lop overgrown, or prune, or prop, or bind, 210
One night or two with wanton growth derides
Tending to wild. Thou therefore now advise,
Or bear what to my mind first thoughts present;
Let us divide our labors, thou where choice
Leads thee, or where most needs, whether to wind 215
The woodbine round this arbor, or direct
The clasping ivy where to climb, while I
In yonder spring of roses intermix'd
With myrtle, find what to redress till noon:
For while so near each other thus all day 220
Our task we chuse, what wonder if so near
Looks interveen and smiles, or object new
Casual discourse draw on, which intermits
Our day's work brought to little, though begun
Early, and th' hour of supper comes unearn'd. 225

To whom mild answer Adam thus return'd.
Sole Eve, associate sole, to me beyond
Compare above all living creatures dear,
Well hast thou motion'd, well thy thoughts employ'd
How we might best fulfil the work which here 230
God hath assign'd us, nor of me shalt pass

Unprais'd : for nothing lovelier can be found
 In woman, than to study household good,
 And good works in her husband to promote,
 Yet not so strictly hath our Lord impos'd 235
 Labor, as to debar us when we need
 Refreshment, whether food, or talk between,
 Food of the mind, or this sweet intercourse
 Of looks and smiles, for smiles from Reason flow,
 To brute deny'd, and are of Love the food, 240
 Love not the lowest end of human life.
 For not to irksome toil, but to delight
 He made us, and delight to reason join'd:
 These paths and bowers doubt not but our joint hands
 Will keep from wilderness with ease, as wide 245
 As we need walk, till younger hands ere long
 Assist us: but if much converse perhaps
 Thee satiate, to short absence I could yield:
 For solitude sometimes is best society,
 And short retirement urges sweet return, 250
 But other doubt possesses me, lest harm
 Befal thee sever'd from me; for thou know'st
 What hath been warn'd us, what malicious foe
 Envyng our happiness, and of his own
 Despairing, seeks to work us woe and shame 255
 By sly assault; and somewhere nigh at hand
 Watches, no doubt, with greedy hope to find
 His wish and best advantage, us asunder,
 Hopeless to circumvent us join'd, where each

To other speedy aid might lend at need;
Whether his first design be to withdraw
Our fealty from God, or to disturb
Conjugal love, than which perhaps no bliss
Enjoy'd by us excites his envy more;
Or this, or worse, leave not the faithful side
That gave thee being, still shades thee and protects.
The wife, where danger or dishonor lurks,
Safest and seemliest by her husband stays,
Who guards her, or with her the worst endures.

To whom the virgin majesty of Eve,
As one who loves, and some unkindness meets,
With sweet austere composure thus reply'd.

Offspring of Heav'n and Earth, and all Earth's lord,
That such an enemy we have, who seeks
Our ruin, both by thee inform'd I learn,
And from the parting angel over-heard,
As in a shady nook I stood behind,
Just then return'd at shut of evening flowers.
But that thou shouldst my firmness therefore doubt
To God or thee, because we have a foe
May tempt it, I expected not to hear.
His violence thou fear'st not, being such
As we, not capable of death or pain,
Can either not receive, or can repel.
His fraud is then thy fear, which plain infers
Thy equal fear that my firm faith and love
Can by his fraud be shaken or seduc'd;

Thoughts, which how found they harbour in thy breast,
Adam, mis-thought of her to thee so dear?

To whom with healing words Adam reply'd. 290

Daughter of God and Man, immortal Eve,
For such thou art, from sin and blame entire :

Not diffident of thee do I dissuade

Thy absence from my sight, but to avoid

Th' attempt itself, intended by our foe. 295

For he who tempts, though' in vain, at least asperges

The tempted with dishonor foul, suppos'd

Not incorruptible of faith, not proof

Against temptation : thou thyself with scorn

And anger wouldst resent the offer'd wrong, 300

Though ineffectual found : misdeem not then,

If such affront I labor to avert

From thee alone, which on us both at once

The enemy, though bold, will hardly dare,

Or daring, first on me th' assault shall light. 305

Nor thou his malice and false guile contemn ;

Subtle he needs must be, who could seduce

Angels ; nor think superfluous others aid.

I from the influence of thy looks receive

Access in every virtue, in thy sight 310

More wise, more watchful, stronger, if need were

Of outward strength ; while shame, thou looking on,

Shame to be overcome or over-reach'd

Would utmost vigor raise, and rais'd unite.

Why shouldst not thou like sense within thee feel 315

When I am present, and thy trial chuse
With me, best witness of thy virtue try'd?

So spake domestic Adam in his care
And matrimonial love; but Eve, who thought
Less attributed to her faith sincere, 320
Thus her reply with accent sweet renew'd.

If this be our condition, thus to dwell
In narrow circuit straiten'd by a foe,
Subtle or violent, we not indued
Single with like defense, wherever met, 325

How are we happy, still in fear of harm?
But harm precedes not sin: only our foe
Tempting affronts us with his foul esteem
Of our integrity: his foul esteem

Sticks no dishonor on our front, but turns
Foul on himself; then wherefore shunn'd or fear'd
By us? who rather double honor gain
From his surmise prov'd false, find peace within,

Favor from Heav'n, our witness from th' event:
And what is faith, love, virtue unassay'd 335
Alone, without exterior help sustain'd?
Let us not then suspect our happy state

Left so imperfect by the Maker's wife,
As not secure to single or combin'd.
Frail is our happiness, if this be so, 340
And Eden were no Eden thus expos'd.

To whom thus Adam fervently reply'd.
O Woman, best are all things as the will

Of God ordain'd them; his creating Hand
 Nothing imperfect or deficient left
 Of all that he created, much less man;
 Or ought that might his happy state secure,
 Secure from outward force; within himself
 The danger lies, yet lies within his power;
 Against his will he can receive no harm:
 But God left free the will, for what obeys
 Reason, is free, and Reason he made right;
 But bid her well be ware, and still erect,
 Lest by some fair appearing good surpris'd
 She dictate false, and misinform the will
 To do what God expressly hath forbid.
 Not then Mistrust, but tender Love enjoins
 That I should mind thee oft, and mind thou me.
 Firm we subsist, yet possible to swerve,
 Since reason not impossibly may meet
 Some specious object by the foe suborn'd,
 And fall into deception unaware,
 Not keeping strictest watch, as she was warn'd.
 Seek not temptation then, which to avoid
 Were better, and most likely if from me
 Thou sever not; trial will come unsought,
 Wouldst thou approve thy constancy, approve
 First thy obedience; th' other who can know,
 Not seeing thee attempted, who attest?
 But if thou think trial unsought may find
 Us both securer than thus warn'd thou seem'st,

Go; for thy stay, not free, absents thee more;
Go in thy native innocence, rely
On what thou hast of virtue, summon all,
For God tow'ards thee hath done his part, do thine.

So spake the Patriarch of Mankind; but Eve 376
Persisted, yet submits, though last, reply'd.

With thy permission then, and thus forewarn'd
Chiefly by what thy own last reasoning words
Touch'd only, that our trial, when least sought, 380
May find us both perhaps far less prepar'd,
The willinger I go, nor much expect
A foe so proud will first the weaker seek;
So bent, the more shall shame him his repulse. 384

Thus saying, from her husband's hand her hand
Soft she withdrew, and like a wood-nymph light,
Oread or Dryad, or of Delia's train,
Betook her to the groves, but Delia's self
In gate surpass'd, and goddess-like deport,
Though not as she with bow and quiver arm'd 390
But with such gard'ning tools as Art yet rude,
Guiltless of fire, had form'd, or angels brought.
To Pales, or Pomona, thus adorn'd,
Likest she seem'd, Pomona when she fled
Vertumnus, or to Ceres in her prime, 395
Yet virgin of Proserpina from Jove.
Her long with ardent look his eye pursu'd
Delighted, but desiring more her stay.
Oft he to her his charge of quick return

Repeated, she to him as oft engag'd, 400
 To be return'd by noon amid the bower,
 And all things in best order to invite
 Noontide repast; or afternoon's repose.
 O much deceiv'd, much failing, hapless Eve,
 Of thy presum'd return! event perverse!
 Thou never from that hour in Paradise 405
 Found'st either sweet repast, or sound repose;
 Such ambush hid among sweet flowers and shades
 Waited with hellish rancor imminent
 To intercept thy way, or send thee back 410
 Despoil'd of innocence, of faith, of bliss.
 For now, and since first break of dawn the Fiend,
 Mere serpent in appearance, forth was come,
 And on his quest, where likeliest he might find
 The only two of Mankind, but in them 415
 The whole included race, his purpos'd prey.
 In bower and field he sought, where any tuft
 Of grove or garden-plot more pleasant lay,
 Their tendence or plantation for delight;
 By fountain or by shady rivulet 420
 He sought them both, but wish'd his hap might find
 Eve separate, he wish'd, but not with hope
 Of what so seldom chanc'd, when to his wish,
 Beyond his hope, Eve separate he spies,
 Veil'd in a cloud of fragrance, where she stood, 425
 Half spy'd, so thick the roses blushing round
 About her glow'd, oft stooping to support

Each flower of slender stalk, whose head though gay
Carnation, purple, azure, or speck'd with gold,
Hung drooping unsustain'd; them she upstays
Gently with myrtle band, mindless the while
Herself, though fairest unsupported flower,
From her best prop so far, and storm so nigh.
Nearer he drew, and many a walk travers'd
Of stateliest covert, cedar, pine, or palm,
Then voluble and bold, now hid, now seen
Among thick-woven arborets and flowers
Imborder'd on each bank, the hand of Eve:
Spot more delicious than those gardens feign'd
Or of reviv'd Adonis, or renown'd
Alcinous, host of old Laertes' son;
Or that, not mystic, where the sapient king
Held dalliance with his fair Egyptian spouse:
Much he the place admir'd, the person more,
As one who long in populous city pent,
Where houses thick and sewers annoy the air,
Forth issuing on a summer's morn to breathe
Among the pleasant villages and farms
Adjoin'd, from each thing met conceives delight,
The smell of grain, or tedded grass, or kine,
Or dairy, each rural sight, each rural sound;
If chance with nymphlike step fair virgin pass,
What pleasing seem'd, for her now pleases more,
She most, and in her look sums all delight:
Such pleasure took the serpent to behold

This flowery plat, the sweet recess of Eve
Thus early, thus alone; her heav'nly form
Angelic, but more soft, and feminine,
Her graceful innocence, her every air
Of gesture, or least action overaw'd 460
His malice; and with rapin sweet bereav'd
His fierceness of the fierce intent it brought:
That space the Evil-one abstracted stood
From his own ev'il, and for the time remain'd
Stupidly good, of enmity disarm'd, 465
Of guile, of hate, of envy, of revenge;
But the hot bell that always in him burns,
Though in mid Heav'n, soon ended his delight,
And tortures him now more, the more he sees
Of pleasure not for him ordain'd: then soon 470
Fierce hate he recollects, and all his thoughts
Of mischief, gratulating, thus excites.
Thoughts, whither have ye led me! with what sweet
Compulsion thus transported to forget
What hither brought us! hate, not love, nor hope
Of Paradise for Hell, hope here to taste 476
Of pleasure, but all pleasure to destroy,
Save what is in destroying; other joy
To me is lost. Then let me not let pass
Occasion which now smiles; behold alone 480
The Woman, opportune to all attempts,
Her husband, for I view far round, not nigh,
Whose higher intellectual more I shun,

And strength, of courage haughty, and of limb
 Heroic built, though of terrestrial mold;
 Foe not formidable, exempt from wound,
 I not; so much hath Hell debas'd, and pain
 Infeebled me, to what I was in Heav'n.
 She fair, divinely fair, fit love for gods,
 Not terrible, though terror be in love
 And beauty, not approach'd by stronger hate,
 Hate stronger, under show of love well feign'd,
 The way, which to her ruin now I tend.

So spake the Enemy' of mankind, inclos'd
 In serpent, inmate bad, and toward Eve
 Address'd his way, not with indented wave,
 Prone on the ground, as since, but on his rear,
 Circular base of rising folds, that tower'd
 Fold above fold a surging maze, his head
 Crested aloft, and carbuncle his eyes;
 With burnish'd neck of verdant gold, erect
 Amidst his circling spires, that on the grass
 Floted redundant: pleasing was his shape
 And lovely; never since of serpent kind
 Lovelier, not those that in Illyria chang'd
 Hermione and Cadmus, or the god
 In Epidaurus; nor to which transform'd
 Ammonian Jove, or Capitoline was seen,
 He with Olympias, this with her who bore
 Scipio the highth of Rome. With tract oblique
 At first, as one who sought access, but fear'd

To interrupt, side-long he works his way.
As when a ship by skilful steersman wrought
Nigh river's mouth or foreland, where the wind
Veers oft, as oft so steers, and shifts her sail: 515
So varied he, and of his tortuous train
Curl'd many a wanton wreath in sight of Eve,
To lure her eye; she busied heard the sound,
Of rustling leaves, but minded not, as us'd
To such disport before her through the field, 520
From every beast, more duteous at her call,
Than at Circean call the herd disguis'd.
He bolder now, uncall'd before her stood,
But as in gaze admiring: oft he bow'd
His turret crest, and sleek enamel'd neck, 525
Fawning, and lick'd the ground whereon she trod.
His gentle dumb expression turn'd at length
The eye of Eve to mark his play; he glad
Of her attention gain'd, with serpent tongue
Organic, or impulse of vocal air, 530
His fraudulent temptation thus began.

Wonder not, sovran Mistress, if perhaps
Thou canst, who art sole wonder; much less arm
Thy looks, the Heav'n of mildness, with disdain,
Displeas'd that I approach thee thus, and gaze 535
Insatiate, I thus single, nor have fear'd
Thy awful brow, more awful thus retir'd.
Fairest resemblance of thy Maker fair,
Thee all things living gaze on, all things thine

By gift, and thy celestial beauty' adore 540
With ravishment beheld, there best beheld
Where universally admir'd; but here
In this inclosure wild; these beasts among,
Beholders rude, and shallow to discern
Half what in thee is fair, one man except, 545
Who sees thee? (and what is one?) who shouldst be
A goddess among gods, ador'd and serv'd [seen
By angels numberless, thy daily train.

So glaz'd the Tempter, and his poem tun'd;
Into the heart of Eve his words made way, 550
Though at the voice much marveling; at length
Not unamaz'd she thus in answer spake.
What may this mean? language of man pronounc'd
By tongue of brute, and human sense express'd?
The first at least of these I thought deny'd 555
To beasts, whom God on their creation-day
Created mute to all articulate sound;
The latter I demur, for in their looks
Much reason, and in their actions oft appears.
Thee, Serpent, subtlest beast of all the field 560
I knew, but not with human voice indu'd;
Redouble then this miracle, and say,
How cam'st thou speakable of mute, and how
To me so friendly grown above the rest
Of brutal kind, that daily are in sight? 565
Say, for such wonder clames attention due.
To whom the guileful Tempter thus reply'd.

Empress of this fair world, resplendent Eve,
 Easy to me it is to tell thee all 569
 What thou command'st, and right thou should'st be'
 I was at first as other beasts that graze [obey'd :
 The trodden herb, of abject thoughts and low,
 As was my food; nor ought but food discern'd
 Or sex, and apprehended nothing high :
 Till on a day roving the field, I chanc'd 575
 A goodly tree far distant to behold
 Loaden with fruit of fairest colors mix'd,
 Ruddy and gold : I nearer drew to gaze;
 When from the boughs a savory odor blown,
 Grateful to appetite, more pleas'd my sense 580
 Than smell of sweetest fenel, or the teats
 Of ewe or goat dropping with milk at even,
 Unsuck'd of lamb or kid, that tend their play.
 To satisfy the sharp desire I had
 Of tasting those fair apples, I resolv'd 585
 Not to defer; hunger and thirst at once,
 Powerful persuaders, quicken'd at the sent
 Of that alluring fruit, urg'd me so keen.
 About the mossy trunk I wound me soon,
 For high from ground the branches would require 590
 Thy utmost reach or Adam's : round the trees
 All other beasts that saw, with like desire
 Longing and envying stood, but could not reach.
 Amid the tree now got, where plenty hung
 Tempting so nigh, to pluck and eat my fill 595

I spar'd not, for such pleasure till that hour
At feed or fountain never had I found.
Sated at length, ere long I might perceive
Strange alteration in me, to degree
Of reason in my inward powers, and speech 600
Wanted not long, though to this shape retain'd.
Thenceforth to speculations high or deep
I turn'd my thoughts, and with capacious mind
Consider'd all things visible in Heav'n,
Or Earth, or Middle, all things fair and good; 605
But all that fair and good in thy divine
Semblance, and in thy beauty's heav'nly ray
United I beheld; no fair to thine
Equivalent or second, which compell'd
Me thus, though importune perhaps, to come 610
And gaze, and worship thee of right declar'd
Sovran of creatures, universal dame.

So talk'd the spirited fly snake; and Eve
Yet more amaz'd unwary thus reply'd.
Serpent, thy overpraising leaves in doubt 615
The virtue of that fruit, in thee first prov'd:
But say, where grows the tree, from hence how far?
For many are the trees of God that grow
In Paradise, and various, yet unknown
To us, in such abundance lies our choice, 620
As leaves a greater store of fruit untouch'd,
Still hanging incorruptible, till men
Grow up to their provision, and more hands

Help to disburden Nature of her birth.

To whom the wily adder, blithe and glad. 625
Empress, the way is ready, and not long,
Beyond a row of myrtles, on a flat,
Fast by a fountain, one small thicket past
Of blowing myrrh and balm; if thou accept
My conduct, I can bring thee thither soon. 630

Lead then, said Eve. He leading swift roll'd
In tangles, and made intricate seem strait,
To mischief swift. Hope elevates, and joy
Brightens his crest. As when a wand'ring fire,
Compact of unctuous vapor, which the night 635
Condenses, and the cold environs round,
Kindled through agitation to a flame,
Which oft, they say, some evil spi'rit attends,
Hovering and blazing with delusive light,
Misleads th' amaz'd night-wand'rer from his way 640
To bogs and mires, and oft through pond or pool,
There swallow'd up and lost, from succour far.
So glister'd the dire snake, and into fraud
Led Eve our credulous mother, to the tree
Of Prohibition, root of all our woe; 645
Which when she saw, thus to her guide she spake.

Serpent, we might have spar'd our coming hither,
Fruitless to me, though fruit be here to' excess,
The credit of whose virtue rest with thee,
Wondrous indeed, if cause of such effects. 650
But of this tree we may not taste nor touch;

God so commanded, and left that command
Sole daughter of his Voice; the rest, we live
Law to ourselves, our reason is our law.

To whom the Tempter guilefully reply'd. 655
Indeed? hath God then said that of the fruit
Of all these garden trees ye shall not eat,
Yet lords declar'd of all in earth or air?

To whom thus Eve yet sinless. Of the fruit
Of each tree in the garden we may eat, 660
But of the fruit of this fair tree amidst
The garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat
Thereof, nor shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

She scarce had said, though brief, when now more
The Tempter, but with shew of zeal and love [bold
To man, and indignation at his wrong. 666
New part puts on, and as to passion mov'd;
Fluctuates disturb'd, yet comely and in act
Rais'd, as of some great matter to begin.

As when of old some orator renown'd 670
In Athens or free Rome, where Eloquence
Flourish'd, since mute, to some great cause address'd
Stood in himself collected, while each part,
Motion, each act won audience ere the tongue,
Sometimes in highth began, as no delay 675
Of preface brooking through his zeal of right:
So standing, moving, or to highth up grown,
The Tempter all impassion'd thus began.

O sacred, wise, and wisdom-giving Plant,

Mother of Science, now I feel thy power 680
Within me clear, not only to discern
Things in their causes, but to trace the ways
Of highest agents, deem'd however wise.
Queen of this Universe, do not believe
Those rigid threats of death; ye shall not die: 685
How should you? by the fruit? it gives you life
To knowledge; by the Threatner? look on me,
Me who have touch'd and tasted, yet both live,
And life more perfect have attain'd than Fate
Meant me, by vent'ring higher than my lot. 690
Shall that be shut to man, which to the beast
Is open? or will God incense his ire
For such a petty trespass, and not praise
Rather your dauntless virtue, whom the pain
Of death denounc'd, whatever thing death be, 695
Deterr'd not from achieving what might lead
To happier life, knowledge of good and evil;
Of good, how just? of evil, if what is evil
Be real, why not known, since easier shunn'd?
God therefore cannot hurt you, and be just; 700
Not just, not God; not fear'd then, nor obey'd:
Your fear itself of death removes the fear.
Why then was this forbid? why but to awe,
Why but to keep ye low and ignorant,
His worshippers; he knows that in the day 705
Ye eat thereof, your eyes that seem so clear,
Yet are but dim, shall perfectly be then

Open'd and clear'd, and ye shall be as gods,
Knowing both good and evil as they know.
That ye shall be as gods, since I as man,
Internal man, is but proportion meet;
I of brute human, ye of human gods.
So ye shall die perhaps, by putting off
Human, to put on gods; death to be wish'd,
Tho' threaten'd, which no worse than this can bring.
And what are gods that man may not become
As they, participating god-like food?
The gods are first, and that advantage use
On our belief, that all from them proceeds;
I question it, for this fair Earth I see,
Warm'd by the sun, producing every kind,
Them nothing: if they all things, who inclos'd
Knowledge of good and evil in this tree,
That whoso eats thereof, forthwith attains
Wisdom without their leave? and wherein lies
Th' offense, that man should thus attain to know?
What can your knowledge hurt him, or this tree
Impart against his will if all be his?
Or is it envy, and can envy dwell
In heav'nly breasts? these, these and many more
Causes import your need of this fair fruit.
Goddeſs Humane, reach then, and freely taste.

He ended, and his words replete with guile
Into her heart too easy entrance won:
Fix'd on the fruit she gaz'd, which to behold

Might tempt alone, and in her ears the sound
 Yet rung of his persuasive words, impregn'd
 With reason, to her seeming, and with truth;
 Mean while the hour of noon drew on, and wak'd
 An eager appetite, rais'd by the smell 740
 So savory of that fruit, which with desire,
 Inclinalé now grown to touch or taste,
 Solicited her longing eye; yet first
 Pausing a while, thus to herself she mus'd.

Great are thy virtues, doubtless, best of fruits, 745
 Though kept from man; and worthy to be admir'd,
 Whose taste, too long forborn, at first assay
 Gave elocution to the mute, and taught
 The tongue not made for speech to speak thy praise:
 Thy praise he also who forbids thy use, 750
 Conceals not from us, naming thee the Tree
 Of Knowledge, knowledge both of good and evil;
 Forbids us then to taste, but his forbidding
 Commends thee more, while it infers the good
 By thee communicated, and our want: 755
 For good unknown, sure is not had, or had
 And yet unknown, is as not had at all.
 In plain then, what forbids he but to know,
 Forbids us good, forbids us to be wise?
 Such prohibitions bind not. But if death 760
 Binds us with after-bands, what profits then
 Our inward freedom? In the day we eat
 Of this fair fruit, our doom is, we shall die.

How dies the serpent? he hath eat'n and lives;
And knows, and speaks, and reasons, and discerns,
Irrational till then. For us alone
Was death invented? or to us deny'd
This intellectual food, for beasts reserv'd?
For beasts it seems: yet that one beast which first
Hath tasted, envies not, but brings with joy
The good befall'n him, author unsuspect,
Friendly to man, far from deceit or guile.
What fear I then, rather what know to fear
Under this ignorance of good and evil,
Of God or death, of law or penalty?
Here grows the cure of all, this fruit divine,
Fair to the eye, inviting to the taste,
Of virtue to make wise: what hinders then
To reach, and feed at once both body and mind?
So saying, her rash hand in evil hour
Forth reaching to the fruit, she pluck'd; she eat:
Earth felt the wound, and Nature from her seat
Sighing through all her works gave signs of woe,
That all was lost. Back to the thicket slunk
The guilty serpent, and well might, for Eve
Intent now wholly on her taste, nought else
Regarded, such delight till then, as seem'd,
In fruit she never tasted, whether true
Or fancy'd so, through expectation high
Of knowledge, nor was God-head from her thought.
Creedily she ingorg'd without restraint,

And knew not eating death: satiate at length,
And highten'd as with wine, jocond and boon,
Thus to herself she pleasingly began.

O sovran, virtuous, precious of all trees 795
In Paradise, of operation bless'd
To sapience, hitherto obscur'd, infam'd,
And thy fair fruit let hang, as to no end
Created; but henceforth my early care,
Not without song, each morning, and due praise, 800
Shall tend thee, and the fertil burden ease
Of thy full branches offer'd free to all;
Till dieted by thee I grow mature
In knowledge, as the gods who all things know;
Though others envy what they cannot give; 805
For had the gift been theirs, it had not here
Thus grown. Experience, next to thee I owe,
Best guide; not following thee I had remain'd
In ignorance; thou open'st Wisdom's way,
And giv'st access, though secret she retire. 810
And I perhaps am secret; Heav'n is high,
High, and remote to see from thence distinct
Each thing on Earth; and other care perhaps
May have diverted from continual watch
Our great Forbidder, safe with all his spies 815
About him. But to Adam in what sort
Shall I appear? shall I to him make known
As yet my change, and give him to partake
Full happiness with me, or rather not,

But keep the odds of knowledge in my power 820
Without copartner? so to add what wants
In female sex, the more to draw his love,
And render me more equal, and perhaps,
A thing not undefrable, sometime
Superior; for inferior who is free? 825
This may be well: but what if God have seen,
And death ensue? then I shall be no more,
And Adam wedded to another Eve,
Shall live with her enjoying, I extinct;
A death to think. Confirm'd then I resolve, 830
Adam shall share with me in blis or woe:
So dear I love him, that with him all deaths
I could endure, without him live no life.

So saying, from the tree her step she turn'd,
But first low reverence done, as to the Power 835
That dwelt within, whose presence had infus'd
Into the plant sciential sap, deriv'd
From nectar, drink of gods. Adam the while
Waiting desirous her return, had wove 840
Of choicest flowers a garland to adorn
Her tresses, and her rural labors crown,
As reapers oft are wont their harvest queen.
Great joy he promis'd to his thoughts, and new
Solace in her return, so long delay'd;
Yet oft his heart, divine of something ill, 845
Misgave him; he the faltring measure felt;
And forth to meet her went, the way she took

That morn when first they parted; by the tree
Of Knowledge he must pass, there he her met,
Scarce from the tree returning; in her hand 850
A bough of fairest fruit, that downy smil'd,
New gather'd, and ambrosial smell diffus'd.
'To him she hasted; in her face Excuse
Came prologue, and Apology too prompt,
Which with bland words at will she thus address'd. 855

Hast thou not wonder'd, Adam, at my stay?
Thee I have miss'd, and thought it long, depriv'd
'Thy presence, agony of love till now
Not felt, nor shall be twice, for never more
Mean I to try, what rash untry'd I sought, 860
'The pain of absence from thy sight. But strange
Hath been the cause, and wonderful to hear:
'This tree is not as we are told, a tree
Of danger tasted, nor to' evil unknown
Opening the way, but of divine effect 865
'To open eyes, and make them gods who taste;
And hath been tasted such; the serpent wise,
Or not restrain'd as we, or not obeying,
Hath eaten of the fruit, and is become;
Not dead, as we are threaten'd, but thenceforth 870
Indued with human voice and human sense,
Reasoning to admiration, and with me
Persuasively hath so prevail'd, that I
Have also tasted, and have also found
'Th' effects to correspond, opener mine eyes, 875

Dim erst, dilated spirits, ampler heart,
And growing up to Godhead; which for thee
Chiefly I sought, without thee can despise.
For bliss, as thou hast part, to me is bliss,
Tedious, unshar'd with thee, and odious soon. 880
Thou therefore also taste, that equal lot
May join us, equal joy, as equal love;
Lest thou not tasting, different degree
Disjoin us, and I then too late renounce
Deity for thee, when Fate will not permit. 885

Thus Eve with count'nance blithe her story told;
But in her cheek Distemper flushing glow'd.
On th' other side, Adam, soon as he heard
The fatal trespass done by Eve, amaz'd,
Astonied stood and blank, while horror chill 890
Ran through his veins, and all his joints relax'd;
From his slack hand the garland wreath'd for Eve
Down dropt, and all the faded roses shed:
Speechless he stood and pale, till thus at length
First to himself he inward silence broke. 895

O fairest of Creation, last and best
Of all God's works, creature in whom excell'd
Whatever can to sight or thought be form'd,
Holy, divine, good, amiable, or sweet!
How art thou lost, how on a sudden lost, 900
Defac'd, deflower'd, and now to death devote?
Rather how hast thou yielded to transgress
The strict forbiddance, how to violate

The sacred fruit forbidd'n? some curst fraud
Of enemy hath beguil'd thee, yet unknown, 905
And me with thee hath ruin'd, for with thee
Certain my resolution is to die;
How can I live without thee, how forego
Thy sweet converse, and love so dearly join'd,
To live again in these wild woods forlorn? 910
Should God create another Eve, and I
Another rib afford, yet loss of thee
Would never from my heart; no no, I feel
The link of Nature draw me: flesh of flesh,
Bone of my bone thou art, and from thy state 915
Mine never shall be parted, bliss or woe.

So having said, as one from sad dismay
Recomforted, and after thoughts disturb'd
Submitting to what seem'd remediless,
Thus in calm mood his words to Eve he turn'd. 920

Bold deed thou hast presum'd, adventurous Eve,
And peril great provok'd, who thus hast dar'd,
Had it been only coveting to eye
That sacred fruit, sacred to abstinence,
Much more to taste it under ban to touch. 925
But past who can recal, or done undo?
Not God omnipotent, nor Fate; yet so
Perhaps thou shalt not die, perhaps the fact
Is not so hainous now, foretasted fruit,
Profan'd first by the serpent, by him first 930
Made common and unhallow'd ere our taste;

Nor yet on him found deadly, he yet lives;
Lives, as thou saidst, and gains to live as man
Higher degree of life, inducement strong
To us, as likely tasting to attain
Proportional ascent, which cannot be
But to be gods, or angels demi-gods.
Nor can I think that God, Creator wise,
Though threat'ning, will in earnest so destroy
Us his prime creatures, dignify'd so high,
Set over all his works, which in our fall,
For us created, needs with us must fail,
Dependent made; so God shall uncreate,
Be frustrate, do, undo, and labor lose,
Not well conceiv'd of God, who though his power
Creation could repeat, yet would be loath
Us to abolish, lest the Adversary
Triumph and say; Fickle their state whom God
Most favors; who can please him long? Me first
He ruin'd, now mankind; whom will he next?
Matter of scorn, not to be given the Foe.
However I with thee have fix'd my lot,
Certain to undergo like doom; if death
Consort with thee, death is to me as life;
So forcible within my heart I feel
The bond of Nature draw me to my own,
My own in thee, for what thou art is mine;
Our state cannot be sever'd, we are one,
One flesh; to lose thee were to lose myself.

So Adam, and thus Eve to him reply'd. 960
O glorious trial of exceeding love,
Illustrious evidence, example high!
Engaging me to emulate; but short
Of thy perfection, how shall I attain,
Adam? from whose dear side I boast me sprung, 965
And gladly of our union hear thee speak,
One heart, one soul in both; whereof good proof
This day affords, declaring thee resolv'd,
Rather than death or ought than death more dread
Shall separate us, link'd in love so dear, 970
To undergo with me one guilt, one crime,
If any be, of tasting this fair fruit,
Whose virtue (for of good still good proceeds,
Direct, or by occasion) hath presented
This happy trial of thy love, which else 975
So eminently never had been known.
Were it I thought death menac'd would ensue
This my attempt, I would sustain alone
The worst, and not persuade thee, rather die
Deserted, than oblige thee with a fact 980
Pernicious to thy peace, chiefly assur'd
Remarkably so late of thy so true,
So faithful love unequal'd; but I feel
Far otherwise th' event, not death, but life
Augmented, open'd eyes, new hopes, new joys, 985
Taste so divine, that what of sweet before
Hath touch'd my sense, flat seems to this, and harsh.

On my experience, Adam, freely taste,
And fear of death deliver to the winds!

So saying, she embrac'd him, and for joy
Tenderly wept, much won that he his love
Had so ennobled, as of choice to' incur
Divine displeasure for her sake, or death.
In recompense (for such compliance bad
Such recompense best merits) from the bough
She gave him of that fair enticing fruit
With liberal hand: he scrupled not to eat
Against his better knowledge, not deceiv'd,
But fondly overcome with female charm.
Earth trembled from her entrails, as again
In pangs, and Nature gave a second groan,
Sky lour'd, and, muttering thunder, some sad drops
Wept at completing of the mortal sin
Original; while Adam took no thought,
Eating his fill, nor Eve to iterate
Her former trespasses fear'd, the more to sooth
Him with her lov'd society, that now
As with new wine intoxicated both
They swim in mirth, and fancy that they feel
Divinity within them breeding wings,
Wherewith to scorn the Earth: but that false fruit
Far other operation first display'd,
Carnal desire inflaming; he on Eve
Began to cast lascivious eyes, she him
As wantonly repaid; in lust they burn:

Till Adam thus 'gan Eve to dalliance move.

Eve, now I see thou art exact of taste,
And elegant, of sapience no small part,
Since to each meaning favor we apply,
And palate call judicious; I the praise
Yield thee, so well this day thou hast purvey'd.
Much pleasure we have lost, while we abstain'd
From this delightful fruit, nor known till now
True relish, tasting; if such pleasure be
In things to us forbidd'n, it might be wish'd, 1025
For this one tree had been forbidden ten.
But come, so well refresh'd, now let us play,
As meet is, after such delicious fare;
For never did thy beauty since the day
I saw thee first and wedded thee, adorn'd 1030
With all perfections, so inflame my sense
With ardor to enjoy thee, fairer now
Than ever, bounty of this virtuous tree.

So said he, and forbore not glance or toy
Of amorous intent, well understood 1035
Of Eve, whose eye darted contagious fire.
Her hand he seis'd, and to a shady bank,
Thick overhead with verdant roof imbower'd,
He led her nothing loath; flowers were the couch,
Pansies and violets, and asphodel, 1040
And hyacinth, Earth's freshest softest lap.
There they their fill of love and love's disport
Took largely, of their mutual guilt the seal,

The solace of their sin, till dewy sleep
 Oppress'd them, wearied with their amorous play.
 Soon as the force of that fallacious fruit, 1046
 That with exhilarating vapor bland
 About their spi'rits had play'd, and inmost powers
 Made err, was now exhal'd; and grosser sleep
 Bred of unkindly fumes, with conscious dreams 1050
 Incumber'd, now had left them; up they rose
 As from unrest, and each the other viewing,
 Soon found their eyes how open'd, and their minds
 How darken'd; Innocence, that as a veil
 Had shadow'd them from knowing ill, was gone,
 Just Confidence, and native Righteousness, 1056
 And Honor from about them, naked left
 To guilty Shame; he cover'd, but his robe
 Uncover'd more. So rose the Danite strong
 Herculean Samson from the harlot-lap 1060
 Of Philistean Dalilah, and wak'd
 Shorn of his strength, they destitute and bare
 Of all their virtue: silent, and in face
 Confounded long they sat, as stricken mute,
 Till Adam, though not less than Eve abash'd, 1065
 At length gave utterance to these words constrain'd.

O Eve, in evil hour thou didst give ear
 To that false Worm, of whomsoever taught
 To counterfeit man's voice, true in our fall,
 False in our promis'd rising; since our eyes 1070
 Open'd we find indeed, and find we know

Both good and ev'il, good lost, and evil got,
Bad fruit of knowledge, if this be to know,
Which leaves us naked thus, of honor void;
Of innocence, of faith, of purity, 1075
Our wonted ornaments now soil'd and stain'd,
And in our faces evident the signs
Of foul concupiscence; whence evil store;
Ev'n shame, the last of evils; of the first
Be sure then. How shall I behold the face 1080
Henceforth of God or angel, erst with joy
And rapture so oft beheld? those heav'nly shapes
Will dazzle now this earthly with their blaze
Insufferably bright. O might I here
In solitude live savage, in some glade 1085
Obscur'd, where highest woods impenetrable
To star or sun-light, spread their umbrage broad
And brown as evening: cover me ye Pines,
Ye Cedars, with innumerable boughs
Hide me, where I may never see them more. 1090
But let us now, as in bad plight, devise
What best may for the present serve to hide
The parts of each from other, that seem most
To shame obnoxious, and unseemliest seen;
Some tree, whose broad smooth leaves together sow'd,
And girded on our loins, may cover round 1096
Those middle parts, that this new comer, Shame,
'There sit not, and reproach us as unclean.
So counsel'd he, and both together went

Into the thickest wood; there soon they chose 1100
The fig-tree, not that kind for fruit renown'd,
But such as at this day to Indians known
In Malabar or Decan spreads her arms
Branching so broad and long, that in the ground
The bended twigs take root, and daughters grow
About the mother tree, a pillar'd shade 1106
High overarch'd, and echoing walks between;
There oft the Indian herdsman shunning heat
Shelters in cool, and tends his pasturing herds
At loopholes cut through thickest shade: those leaves
They gather'd, broad as Amazonian targe, 1111
And with what skill they had, together sow'd,
To gird their waste, vain covering if to hide
Their guilt and dreaded shame; O how unlike
To that first naked glory! Such of late 1115
Columbus found th' American, so girt
With feather'd cincture, naked else and wild
Among the trees on isles and woody shores.
Thus fenc'd, and as they thought, their shame in part
Cover'd, but not at rest or ease of mind, 1120
They sat them down to weep; nor only tears
Rain'd at their eyes, but high winds worse within
Began to rise, high passions, anger, hate,
Mistrust, suspicion, discord, and shook sore
Their inward state of mind, calm region once 1125
And full of peace, now tost and turbulent:
For Understanding rul'd not, and the Will

Heard not her lore, both in subjection now
To sensual Appetite, who from beneath
Usurping over sovran Reason clam'd 1130
Superior sway: from thus distemper'd breast,
Adam, estrang'd in look and alter'd stile,
Speech intermitted thus to Eve renew'd.

Would thou hadst hearken'd to my words, and stay'd
With me, as I besought thee, when that strange 1135
Desire of wand'ring this unhappy morn,
I know not whence possess'd thee; we had then
Remain'd still happy, not as now, despoil'd
Of all our good, sham'd, naked, miserable.
Let none henceforth seek needless cause to approve
The faith they owe; when earnestly they seek 1141
Such proof, conclude, they then begin to fail,

To whom soon mov'd with touch of blame thus Eve.
What words have pass'd thy lips, Adam severe!
Imput'st thou that to my default, or will 1145
Of wand'ring, as thou call'st it, which who knows
But might as ill have happen'd thou being by,
Or to thyself perhaps? Hadst thou been there,
Or here th' attempt, thou couldst not have discern'd
Fraud in the serpent, speaking as he spake; 1150
No ground of enmity between us known,
Why he should mean me ill, or seek to harm.
Was I to have never parted from thy side?
As good have grown there still a lifeless rib.
Being as I am, why didst not thou the head 1155

Command me absolutely not to go,
Going into such danger as thou saidst?
Too facil then thou didst not much gainsay,
Nay didst permit, approve, and fair dismiss.
Hadst thou been firm and fix'd in thy dissent, 1160
Neither had I transgress'd, nor thou with me.

To whom then first incens'd Adam reply'd.
Is this the love, is this the recompense
Of mine to thee, ingrateful Eve, express'd
Immutable when thou wert lost, not I, 1165
Who might have liv'd and joy'd immortal blifs,
Yet willingly chose rather death with thee?
And am I now upbraided as the cause
Of thy transgressing? not enough severe,
It seems, in thy restraint: what could I more? 1170
I warn'd thee, I admonish'd thee, foretold
The danger, and the lurking enemy
That lay in wait; beyond this had been force,
And force upon free will hath here no place.
But confidence then bore thee on, secure 1175
Either to meet no danger, or to find
Matter of glorious trial; and perhaps
I also err'd in overmuch admiring
What seem'd in thee so perfect, that I thought
No evil durst attempt thee, but I rue 1180
That error now, which is become my crime,
And thou th' accuser. Thus it shall befall
Him who to worth in women overtrusting

Lets her will rule; restraint she will not brook,
 And left to' herself, if evil thence ensue, 1185
 She first his weak indulgence will accuse.

Thus they in mutual accusation spent
 The fruitless hours, but neither self-condemning,
 And of their vain contest appear'd no end.

The End of the Ninth Book.



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PARADISE LOST.

BOOK X.

The Argument.

Man's transgression known, the guardian angels forsake Paradise, and return up to Heaven to approve their vigilance, and are approv'd, God declaring that the entrance of Satan could not be by them prevented. He sends his Son to Judge the transgressors, who descends and gives sentence accordingly; then in pity clothes them both, and reascends. Sin and Death sitting till then at the gates of Hell, by wondrous sympathy feeling the success of Satan in this new world, and the sin by man there committed, resolve to sit no longer confin'd in Hell, but to follow Satan their sire up to the place of Man: to make the way easier from Hell to this world to and fro, they pave a broad high-way or bridge over Chaos, according to the track that Satan first made; then preparing for Earth, they meet him proud of his success returning to Hell; their mutual gratulation. Satan arrives at Pandemonium, in full assembly relates with boasting his success against Man; instead of applause is entertained with a general hiss by all his audience, transform'd with himself also suddenly into serpents, according to his doom given in Paradise; then deluded with a shew of the forbidden Tree springing up before them, they greedily reaching to take of the fruit, chew dust and bitter ashes. The proceedings of Sin and Death; God foretels the final victory of his Son over them, and the renewing of all things; but for the present commands his angels to make several alterations in the Heavens and elements. Adam more and more perceiving his fall'n condition heavily bewails, rejects the condolment of Eve; she persists, and at length appeases him: then to evade the curse likely to fall on their offspring, proposes to Adam violent ways, which he approves not, but conceiving better hope, puts her in mind of the late promise made them, that her Seed should be reveng'd on the serpent, and exhorts her with him to seek peace of the offended Deity, by repentance and supplication.

MEAN while the hainous and despitelul act
Of Satan done in Paradise, and how
He in the serpent had perverted Eve,

Her husband she, to taste the fatal fruit,
Was known in Heav'n; for what can 'scape the eye 5
Of God all-seeing, or deceive his heart
Omniscient? who in all things wise and just,
Hinder'd not Satan to attempt the mind
Of Man, with strength entire, and free will arm'd
Complete to have discover'd and repuls'd 10
Whatever wiles of foe or seeming friend.
For still they knew, and ought to have still remember'd
The high injunction not to taste that fruit,
Whoever tempted; which they not obeying,
Incurr'd (what could they less?) the penalty, 15
And manifold in sin, deserv'd to fall.
Up into Heav'n from Paradise in haste
Th' angelic guards ascended, mute and sad
For man, for of his state by this they knew,
Much wond'ring how the subtle Fiend had stol'n 20
Entrance unseen. Soon as th' unwelcome news
From Earth arriv'd at Heaven gate, displeas'd
All were who heard; dim Sadness did not spare
That time celestial visages, yet mix'd
With pity, violated not their bliss. 25
About the new-arriv'd, in multitudes
Th' ethereal people ran, to hear and know
How all befel: they tow'ards the throne supreme
Accountable made haste to make appear
With righteous plea their utmost vigilance, 30
And easily approv'd; when the Most High

Eternal Father, from his secret cloud,
Amidst in thunder utter'd thus his voice.

Assembled Angels, and ye Pow'rs return'd
From unsuccessful charge, be not dismay'd, 35
Nor troubled at these tidings from the Earth,

Which your sincerest care could not prevent,
Foretold so lately what would come to pass,
When first this Tempter cross'd the gulf from Hell.

I told ye then he should prevail and speed 40

On his bad errand, man should be seduc'd
And flatter'd out of all, believing lies

Against his Maker; no decree of mine
Concurring to necessitate his fall,

Or touch with lightest moment of impulse 45

His free will, to her own inclining left

In even scale. But fall'n he is, and now

What rests, but that the mortal sentence pass

On his transgression, death denounc'd that day?

Which he presumes already vain and void, 50

Because not yet inflicted, as he fear'd,

By some immediate stroke; but soon shall find

Forbearance no acquittance ere day end.

Justice shall not return as bounty scorn'd.

But whom send I to judge them? whom but thee 55

Vicegerent Son? to thee I have transferr'd

All judgment, whether in Heav'n, or Earth, or Hell.

Easy it may be seen that I intend

Mercy colleague with justice, sending thee

Man's friend, his mediator, his design'd 60
Both ransome and redeemer voluntary,
And destin'd Man himself to judge, man fall'n.

So spake the Father, and unfolding bright
Tow'ard the right hand his glory, on the Son
Blaz'd forth unclouded deity; he full 65
Resplendent all his Father manifest
Express'd, and thus divinely answer'd mild.

Father Eternal, thine is to decree,
Mine both in Heav'n and Earth to do thy will
Supreme, that thou in me thy Son below'd 70
May'st ever rest well pleas'd. I go to judge
On Earth these thy transgressors, but thou know'st,
Whoever judg'd, the worst on me must light,
When time shall be, for so I undertook
Before thee; and not repenting, this obtain 75
Of right, that I may mitigate their doom
On me deriv'd, yet I shall temper so
Justice with mercy, as may illustrate most
Them fully satisfy'd, and thee appease. 79
Attendance none shall need, nor train, where none
Are to behold the judgment, but the judg'd,
Those two; the third best absent is condemn'd,
Convict by flight, and rebel to all law:
Conviction to the serpent none belongs.
Thus saying, from his radiant seat he rose 83
Of high collateral glory: him thrones and powers,
Princedoms, and dominations ministrant

60 Accompanied to Heav'n gate, from whence
 Eden and all the coast in prospect lay.
 Down he descended strait; the speed of gods 90
 Time counts not, though with swiftest minutes wing'd.
 Now was the sun in western cadence low
 65 From noon, and gentle airs due at their hour
 To fan the Earth now wak'd, and usher in
 The ev'ning cool, when he from wrath more cool 95
 Came the mild judge and intercessor both
 To sentence Man: the voice of God they heard
 70 Now walking in the garden, by soft winds
 Brought to their ears, while day declin'd; they heard,
 And from his presence hid themselves among 100
 The thickest trees, both man and wife, till God
 Approaching, thus to Adam call'd aloud.
 75 Where art thou Adam, wont with joy to meet
 My coming seen far off? I miss thee here,
 Not pleas'd, thus entertain'd with solitude, 105
 Where obvious duty' ere while appear'd unsought:
 79 Or come I less conspicuous, or what change
 Absents thee, or what chance detains? Come forth.

He came, and with him Eve, more loath; though first
 To' offend, discount'nanc'd both, and discompos'd;
 Love was not in their looks, either to God 111
 Or to each other, but apparent guilt,
 83 And shame, and perturbation, and despair,
 Anger, and obstinacy, and hate, and guile,
 Whence Adam faltring long, thus answer'd brief.

I heard thee in the gard'n, and of thy voice 116
Afraid, being naked, hid myself. To whom
The gracious Judge without revile reply'd.
My voice thou oft hast heard, and hast not fear'd,
But still rejoic'd; how is it now become 120
So dreadful to thee? that thou' art naked, who
Hath told thee? hast thou eaten of the Tree,
Whereof I gave thee charge thou shouldst not eat?
To whom thus Adam fore beset reply'd.
O Heav'n! in evil strait this day I stand 125
Before my Judge, either to undergo
Myself the total crime, or to accuse
My other self, the partner of my life;
Whose failing, while her faith to me remains,
I should conceal, and not expose to blame 130
By my complaint; but strict Necessity
Subdues me, and calamitous Constraint,
Lest on my head both sin and punishment,
However insupportable, be all
Devolv'd; though should I hold my peace, yet thou
Wouldst easily detect what I conceal. 136
This Woman, whom thou mad'st to be my help,
And gav'st me as thy perfect gift, so good,
So fit, so acceptable, so divine,
That from her hand I could suspect no ill, 140
And what she did, whatever in itself,
Her doing seem'd to justify the deed;
She gave me of the Tree, and I did eat,

116 To whom the Sovran Presence thus reply'd.
 Was she thy God, that her thou didst obey
 Before his voice; or was she made thy guide,
 Superior, or but equal, that to her
 120 Thou didst resign thy manhood, and the place
 Wherein God set thee above her, made of thee,
 And for thee, whose perfection far excell'd
 Hers in all real dignity? Adorn'd
 She was indeed, and lovely to attract
 125 Thy love, not thy subjection; and her gifts
 Were such as under government well seem'd,
 Unseemly to bear rule, which was thy part
 And person, hadst thou known thyself aright.

130 So having said, he thus to Eve in few
 Say Woman, what is this which thou hast done?

To whom sad Eve with shame nigh overwhelm'd,
 Confessing soon, yet not before her Judge
 Bold or loquacious, thus abash'd reply'd.
 The serpent me beguil'd, and I did eat.

Which when the Lord God heard, without delay
 To judgment he proceeded on th' accus'd
 Serpent though brute, unable to transfer
 165 The guilt on him who made him instrument
 Of mischief, and polluted from the end
 Of his creation; justly then accus'd;
 As vitiated in nature: more to know
 Concern'd not man (since he no further knew)
 170 Nor alter'd his offence; yet God at last

To Satan first in sin his doom apply'd,
Though in mysterious terms, judg'd as then best:
And on the serpent thus his curse let fall:
Because thou hast done this, thou art accurs'd 175
Above all cattel, each beast of the field;
Upon thy belly groveling thou shalt go,
And dust shalt eat all the days of thy life.
Between thee and the woman I will put
Enmity, and between thine and her seed; 180
Her seed shall bruise thy head, thou bruise his heel.

So spake this Oracle, then verifys'd
When Jesus son of Mary, second Eve,
Saw Satan fall like lightning down from Heav'n,
Prince of the Air; then rising from his grave 185
Spoil'd principalities and powers, triumph'd
In open show, and with ascension bright
Captivity led captive through the air,
The realm itself of Satan long usurp'd,
Whom he shall tread at last under our feet; 190
Ev'n he who now foretold his fatal bruise,
And to the woman thus his sentence turn'd.
Thy sorrow I will greatly multiply
By thy conception; children thou shalt bring
In sorrow forth; and to thy husband's will
Thine shall submit; he over thee shall rule. 195

On Adam last thus judgment he pronounc'd:
Because thou' hast hearken'd to th' voice of thy wife,
And eaten of the tree, concerning which 199

I charg'd thee, say'ing, Thou shalt not eat thereof:
Curs'd is the ground for thy sake; thou in sorrow
Shalt eat thereof all the days of thy life;
Thorns also' and thistles it shall bring thee forth
Unbid; and thou shalt eat th' herb of the field,
In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, 205
Till thou return unto the ground; for thou
Out of the ground wast taken; know thy birth,
For dust thou art, and shalt to dust return.

So judg'd he Man, both Judge and Saviour sent;
And th' instant stroke of death denounc'd that day
Remov'd far off; then pitying how they stood 211
Before him naked to the air, that now
Must suffer change, disdain'd not to begin
Thenceforth the form of servant to assume,
As when he wash'd his servants' feet, so now 215
As father of his family he clad
Their nakedness with skins of beasts, or slain,
Or as the snake with youthful coat repaid;
And thought not much to clothe his enemies:
Nor he their outward only with the skins 220
Of beasts, but inward nakedness, much more
Opprobrious, with his robe of righteousness,
Arraying cover'd from his Father's sight.
To him with swift ascent he up return'd,
Into his blissful bosom reassum'd 225
In glory as of old; to him pleas'd
All, though all-knowing, what had pass'd with man

Recounted, mixing intercession sweet.

Mean while ere thus was sinn'd and judg'd on Earth,
Within the gates of Hell sat Sin and Death,
In counterview within the gates, that now
Stood open wide, belching outrageous flame
Far into Chaos, since the Fiend pass'd through,
Sin opening, who thus now to Death began.

O Son, why sit we here each other viewing
Idly, while Satan our great author thrives
In other worlds, and happier seat provides
For us his offspring dear? It cannot be
But that success attends him; if mishap,
Ere this he had return'd, with fury driven
By his avengers, since no place like this
Can fit his punishment, or their revenge.
Methinks I feel new strength within me rise,
Wings growing, and dominion giv'n me large
Beyond this deep; whatever draws me on,
Or sympathy, or some connatural force
Powerful at greatest distance to unite
With secret amity things of like kind
By secretest conveyance. Thou my shade
Inseparable must with me along:
For Death from Sin no power can separate.
But lest the difficulty' of passing back
Stay his return perhaps over this gulf
Impassable, impervious, let us try
Advent'rous work, yet to thy power and mine

Not unagreeable, to found a path
 Over this main from Hell to that new world
 Where Satan now prevails, a monument
 Of merit high to all th' infernal host,
 Easing their passage hence, for intercourse, 260
 Or transmigration, as their lot shall lead.
 Nor can I miss the way, so strongly drawn
 By this new-felt attraction and instinct.

Whom thus the meager Shadow answer'd soon.
 Go whither Fate and Inclination strong 265
 Leads thee; I shall not lag behind, nor err
 The way, thou leading, such a sent I draw
 Of carnage, prey innumerable, and taste
 The favor of Death from all things there that live:
 Nor shall I to the work thou enterprisest 270
 Be wanting, but afford thee equal aid.

So saying, with delight he snuff'd the smell
 Of mortal change on Earth. As when a flock
 Of ravenous fowl, though many a league remote,
 Against the day of battel, to a field, 275
 Where armies lie incamp'd, come flying, lur'd
 With sent of living carcasses design'd
 For death, the following day, in bloody fight;
 So sented the grim Feature, and upturn'd
 His nostril wide into the murky air, 280
 Sagacious of his quarry from so far.
 Then both from out Hell gates into the waste
 Wide anarchy of Chaos damp and dark

Flew diverse, and with power (their power was great)
Hovering upon the waters, what they met 285
Solid or slimy, as in raging sea
Tost up and down, together crouded drove
From each side shoaling tow'ards the mouth of Hell:
As when two polar winds, blowing adverse
Upon the Cronian sea, together drive 290
Mountains of ice, that stop th' imagin'd way
Beyond Pétora eastward, to the rich
Cathaian coast. The aggregated foil
Death with his mace petrific, cold and dry,
As with a trident smote, and fix'd as firm 295
As Delos floating once; the rest his look
Bound with gorgonian rigor not to move;
And with Asphaltic slime, broad as the gate,
Deep to the roots of Hell the gather'd beach
They fasten'd, and the mole immense wrought on 300
Over the foaming deep high arch'd, a bridge
Of length prodigious, joining to the wall
Immoveable of this now fenceless world
Forfeit to Death; from hence a passage broad,
Smooth, easy, inoffensive down to Hell. 305
So, if great things to small may be compar'd,
Xerxes, the liberty of Greece to yoke,
From Susa his Memnonian palace high
Came to the sea, and over Hellespont
Bridging his way, Europe with Asia join'd, 310
And scourg'd with many a stroke th' indignant waves,

Now had they brought the work by wondrous art
Pontifical, a ridge of pendent rock,
Over the vex'd abyfs, following the track
Of Satan to the self same place where he 315
First lighted from his wing, and landed safe
From out of Chaos, to the outside bare
Of this round world: with pins of adamant
And chains they made all fast, too fast they made
And durable; and now in little space 320
The confines met of empyréan Heav'n
And of this world, and on the left hand Hell
With long reach interpos'd; three several ways
In light, to each of these three places led.
And now their way to Earth they had descry'd, 325
To Paradise first tending, when behold
Satan in likeness of an angel bright
Betwixt the Centaur and the Scorpion steering
His zenith, while the sun in Aries rose:
Disguis'd he came, but those his children dear 330
Their parent soon discern'd, though in disguise.
He after Eve seduc'd, unminded slunk
Into the wood fast by, and changing shape
To' observe the sequel, saw his guileful act
By Eve, though all unweeting, seconded 335
Upon her husband, saw their shame that sought
Vain covertures; but when he saw descend
The Son of God to judge them, terrify'd
He fled, not hoping to escape, but shun

The present, fearing guilty what his wrath 340
Might suddenly inflict; that past, return'd
By night, and list'ning where the hapless pair
Sat in their sad discourse, and various plaint,
Thence gather'd his own doom, which understood
Not instant, but of future time, with joy 345
And tidings fraught, to Hell he now return'd,
And at the brink of Chaos, near the foot
Of this new wondrous pontifice, unhop'd
Met who to meet him came, his offspring dear.
Great joy was at their meeting, and at sight 350
Of that stupendous bridge his joy increas'd.
Long he admiring stood, till Sin, his fair
Inchanting daughter, thus the silence broke.

O Parent, these are thy magnific deeds,
Thy trophies, which thou view'st as not thine own;
Thou art their author and prime architect: 356
For I no sooner in my heart divin'd,
My heart, which by a secret harmony
Still moves with thine, join'd in connexion sweet,
That thou on Earth hadst prosper'd, which thy looks
Now also evidence, but strait I felt 361
Though distant from thee worlds between, yet felt
That I must after thee with this thy son,
Such fatal consequence unites us three:
Hell could no longer hold us in her bounds, 365
Nor this unvoyageable gulf obscure
Detain from following thy illustrious track.

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Thou hast achiev'd our liberty, confin'd
 Within Hell gates till now, thou us impower'd
 To fortify thus far, and overlay 370
 With this portentous bridge the dark abyfs.
 Thine now is all this world; thy virtue hath won
 What thy hands builded not, thy wisdom gain'd
 With odds what War hath lost, and fully aveng'd
 Our foil in Heav'n; here thou shalt monarch reign,
 There didst not; there let him still victor sway, 376
 As battel hath adjudg'd, from this new world
 Retiring, by his own doom alienated,
 And henceforth monarchy with thee divide
 Of all things parted by th' empyreal bounds, 380
 His quadrature, from thy orbicular world,
 Or try thee now more dange'rous to his throne.

Whom thus the Prince of Darkness answer'd glad.
 Fair Daughter, and thou Son and Grandchild both,
 High proof ye now have giv'n to be the race 385
 Of Satan, (for I glory in the name,
 Antagonist of Heav'n's almighty King)
 Amply have merited of me, of all
 Th' infernal empire, that so near Heav'n's door
 Triumphal with triumphal act have met, 390
 Mine with this glorious work, and made one realm
 Hell and this world, one realm, one continent
 Of easy thorough-fare. Therefore while I
 Descend through Darkness, on your road with ease,
 To my associate powers, them to acquaint 395

With these successes, and with them rejoice,
 You two this way, among these numerous orbs
 All yours, right down to Paradise descend;
 There dwell and reign in bliss, thence on the Earth
 Dominion exercise and in the air, 400
 Chiefly on man, sole lord of all declar'd,
 Him first make sure your thrall, and lastly kill.
 My substitutes I send ye, and create
 Plenipotent on Earth, of matchless might
 Issuing from me: on your joint vigor now 405
 My hold of this new kingdom all depends,
 'Through sin to death expos'd by my exploit.
 If your joint power prevail, th' affairs of Hell
 No detriment need fear; go and be strong.

So saying he dismiss'd them; they with speed 410
 Their course through thickest constellations held,
 Spreading their bane; the blasted stars look'd wan,
 And planets, planet-struck, real eclipse
 Then suffer'd. Th' other way Satan went down
 The causway to Hell gate; on either side 415
 Disparted Chaos over built exclaim'd,
 And with rebounding surge the bars assail'd,
 'That scorn'd his indignation: through the gate,
 Wide open and unguarded, Satan pass'd,
 And all about found desolate; for those 420
 Appointed to sit there had left their charge,
 Flown to the upper world; the rest were all
 Far to th' inland retir'd, about the walls

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Of Pandemonium, city and proud seat
Of Lucifer, so by allusion call'd 425
Of that bright star to Satan paragon'd.
There kept their watch the legions, while the Grand
In council sat, solicitous what chance
Might intercept their emp'rour sent; so he
Departing gave command, and they observ'd. 430
As when the Tartar from his Russian foe
By Astracan over the snowy plains
Retires, or Bactrian Sophi from the horns
Of Turkish crescent, leaves all waste beyond
The realm of Aladule, in his retreat 435
To Tauris or Casbeen: so these the late
Heav'n-banish'd host left desert utmost Hell
Many a dark league, reduc'd in careful watch
Round their metropolis, and now expecting
Each hour their great adventurer from the search 440
Of foreign worlds: he through the midst unmark'd,
In show plebeian angel militant
Of lowest order, pass'd; and from the door
Of that Plutonian hall, invisible
Ascended his high throne, which under state 445
Of richest texture spread, at th' upper end
Was plac'd in regal lustre. Down a while
He sat, and round about him saw unseen:
At last as from a cloud his fulgent head
And shape star-bright appear'd, or brighter, clad 450
With what permissive glory since his fall

Was left him, or false glitter : all amaz'd
At that so sudden blaze the Stygian throng
Bent their aspect, and whom they wish'd beheld,
Their mighty Chief return'd : loud was the acclame :
Forth rush'd in haste the great consulting peers, 456
Rais'd from their dark divan, and with like joy
Congratulant approach'd him, who with hand
Silence, and with these words attention won.

Thrones, Dominations, Princedoms, Virtues, Powers,
For in possession such, not only' of right, 461
I call ye and declare ye now, return'd
Successful beyond hope, to lead ye forth
Triumphant out of this infernal pit
Abominable, accurs'd, the house of Woe, 465
And dungeon of our Tyrant : now possess,
As lords, a spacious world, to' our native Heav'n
Little inferior, by my adventure hard
With peril great achiev'd. Long were to tell
What I have done, what suffer'd, with what pain 470
Voyag'd th' unreal, vast, unbounded deep
Of horrible confusion, over which
By Sin and Death a broad way now is pav'd
To expedite your glorious march ; but I
Toil'd out my uncouth passage, forc'd to ride 475
Th' untractable abyss, plung'd in the womb
Of unorigi'nal Night and Chaos wild,
That jealous of their secrets fiercely' oppos'd
My journey strange, with clamorous uproar

Protesting fate supreme; thence how I found 480
The new-created world, which fame in Heav'n
Long had foretold, a fabric wonderful
Of absolute perfection, therein Man
Plac'd in a paradise, by our exile
Made happy: him by fraud I have seduc'd 485
From his Creator, and the more to' increase
Your wonder, with an apple; he theréat
Offended, worth your laughter, hath giv'n up
Both his beloved man and all his world
To Sin and Death a prey, and so to us, 490
Without our hazard, labor, or alarm,
To range in, and to dwell, and over man
To rule, as over all he should have rul'd.
True is, me also he hath judg'd, or rather
Me not, but the brute serpent in whose shape 495
Man I deceiv'd: that which to me belongs
Is enmity, which he will put between
Me and mankind: I am to bruise his heel;
His seed, when is not set, shall bruise my head:
A world who would not purchase with a bruise, 500
Or much more grievous pain? Ye have th' account
Of my performance: what remains, ye Gods,
But up and enter now into full bliss?
So having said, a while he stood, expecting
Their universal shout and high applause 505
To fill his ear, when contrary he hears
On all sides, from innumerable tongues

A dismal universal hiss, the sound
Of public scorn; he wonder'd, but not long
Had leisure, wond'ring at himself now more; 510
His visage drawn he felt to sharp and spare,
His arms clung to his ribs, his legs intertwining
Each other, till supplanted down he fell
A monstrous serpent on his belly prone,
Reluctant, but in vain, a greater Power 515
Now rul'd him, punish'd in the shape he sinn'd
According to his doom: he would have spoke,
But hiss for hiss return'd with forked tongue
To forked tongue, for now were all transform'd
Alike, to serpents all as accessories 520
To his bold riot: dreadful was the din
Of hissing through the hall, thick swarming now
With complicated monsters head and tail,
Scorpion, and asp, and amphispæna dire,
Ceraustes horn'd, hydrus, and elops drear, 525
And dipsas (not so thick swarm'd once the soil
Bedropt with blood of gorgon, or the ile
Ophiusa) but still greatest he the midst,
Now dragon grown, larger than whom the sun
Ingender'd in the Pythian vale on slime, 530
Huge Python, and his power no less he seem'd
Above the rest still to retain; they all
Him follow'd issuing forth to th' open field,
Where all yet left of that revolted rout
Heav'n-fall'n, in station stood or just array, 535

Sublime with expectation when to see
In triumph issuing forth their glorious Chief;
They saw, but other sight instead, a croud
Of ugly serpents; horror on them fell,
And horrid sympathy; for what they saw, 540
They felt themselves now changing; down their arms,
Down fell both spear and shield, down they as fast,
And the dire hiss renew'd, and the dire form
Catch'd by contagion, like in punishment,
As in their crime. Thus was th' applause they meant
Turn'd to exploding hiss, triumph to shame 546
Cast on themselves from their own mouths. There stood
A grove hard by, sprung up with this their change,
His will who reigns above, to aggravate
Their penance, laden with fair fruit, like that 550
Which grew in Paradise, the bait of Eve
Us'd by the Tempter: on that prospect strange
Their earnest eyes they fix'd, imagining
For one forbidden tree a multitude
Now ris'n, to work them further woe or shame; 555
Yet parch'd with scalding thirst and hunger fierce,
Though to delude them sent, could not abstain,
But on they roll'd in heaps, and up the trees
Climbing, fat thicker than the snaky locks
That curl'd Megæra: greedily they pluck'd 560
The fruitage fair to sight, like that which grew
Near that bituminous lake where Sodom flam'd;
This more delusive, not the touch, but taste

Deceiv'd; they fondly thinking to allay
 Their appetite with gust, instead of fruit 565
 Chew'd bitter ashes, which th' offended taste
 With spattering noise rejected: oft they' assay'd,
 Hunger and thirst constraining, drug'd as oft,
 With hatefullest disrelish writh'd their jaws
 With soot and cinders fill'd; so oft they fell 570
 Into the same illusion, not as man
 Whom they triumph'd once laps'd. Thus were they
 And worn with famin, long and ceaseless hiss, [plagu'd
 Till their lost shape; permitted, they resum'd,
 Yearly injoin'd; some say, to undergo 575
 This annual humbling certain number'd days,
 To dash their pride, and joy for man seduc'd.
 However some tradition they dispers'd
 Among the Heathen of their purchase got,
 And fabled how the serpent, whom they call'd 580
 Ophion with Eurynome, the wide
 Encroaching Eve perhaps, had first the rule
 Of high Olympus, thence by Saturn driven
 And Ops, ere yet Dictæan Jove was born.
 Mean while in Paradise the hellish pair 585
 Too soon arriv'd; Sin there in power before,
 Once actual, now in body, and to dwell
 Habitual habitant; behind her Death
 Close following pace for pace, not mounted yet
 On his pale horse: to whom Sin thus began. 590
 Second of Satan sprung, all conqu'ring Death,

What think'st thou of our empire now, though earn'd
With travel difficult, not better far
Than still at Hell's dark threshold to' have sat watch,
Unnam'd, undreaded, and thyself half starv'd? 595

Whom thus the Sin-born monster answer'd soon.
To me, who with eternal famin pine,
Alike is Hell, or Paradise, or Heav'n,
There best, where most with ravin I may meet;
Which here, though plenteous, all too little seems 600
To stuff this maw, this vast unhide-bound corps.

To whom th' incestuous mother thus reply'd.
Thou therefore on these herbs, and fruits, and flowers
Feed first, on each beast next, and fish, and fowl,
No homely morsels; and whatever thing 605
The sithe of Time mowes down, devour unspar'd;
Till I in Man residing through the race,
His thoughts, his looks, words, actions, all infect,
And season him thy last and sweetest prey.

This said, they both betook them several ways, 610
Both to destroy, or unimmortal make
All kinds, and for destruction to mature
Sooner or later; which th' Almighty seeing,
From his transcendent seat the saints among,
To those bright Orders utter'd thus his voice. 615

See with what heat these dogs of Hell advance
To waste and havoc yonder world, which I
So fair and good created, and had still
Kept in that state, had not the folly of man

Let in these wasteful furies, who impute 620
Folly to me, so doth the Prince of Hell
And his adherents, that with so much ease
I suffer them to enter and possess
A place so heav'nly, and conniving seem
To gratify my scornful enemies, 625
That laugh, as if transported with some fit
Of passion, I to them had quitted all,
At random yielded up to their misrule;
And know not that I call'd and drew them thither
My hell-hounds, to lick up the draff and filth 630
Which man's polluting sin with taint hath shed
On what was pure, till cramm'd and gorg'd, nigh burst
With suck'd and glutted offal, at one sling
Of thy victorious arm, well-pleasing Son,
Both Sin, and Death, and yawning Grave at last 635
Through Chaos hurl'd, obstruct the mouth of Hell
For ever, and seal up his ravenous jaws.
Then Heav'n and Earth renew'd shall be made pure
To sanctity that shall receive no stain :
Till then the curse pronounc'd on both precedes. 640
He ended, and the heav'nly audience loud
Sung halleluiah, as the sound of seas,
Through multitude that sung : Just are thy ways,
Righteous are thy decrees on all thy works;
Who can extenuate thee ? Next, to the Son, 645
Destin'd Restorer of mankind, by whom
New Heav'n and Earth shall to the ages rise,

Or down from Heav'n descend. Such was their song,
While the Creator calling forth by name
His mighty angels gave them several charge 650
As sort'd best with present things. The sun
Had first his precept so to move, so shine,
As might affect the Earth with cold and heat
Scarce tolerable, and from the North to call
Decrepit Winter, from the South to bring 655
Solstitial Summer's heat. To the blanc moon
Her office they prescrib'd, to th' other five
Their planetary motions and aspects
In sextile, square, and trine, and opposit
Of noxious efficacy, and when to join 660
In synod unbenign; and taught the fix'd
Their influence malignant when to shower,
Which of them rising with the sun, or falling,
Should prove tempestuous: to the winds they set
Their corners, when with bluster to confound 665
Sea, air, and shore, the thunder when to roll
With terror through the dark aerial hall.
Some say he bid his angels turn ascense
The poles of Earth twice ten degrees and more
From the sun's axle, they with labor push'd 670
Oblique the centric globe: some say the Sun
Was bid turn reins from th' equinoctial road
Like distant breadth to Taurus with the seven
Atlantic Sisters, and the Spartan Twins
Up to the tropic Crab; thence down amain 675

By Leo and the Virgin and the Scales,
As deep as Capricorn, to bring in change
Of seasons to each clime; else had the spring
Perpetual smil'd on Earth with vernant flowers,
Equal in days and nights, except to those 680
Beyond the polar circles; to them day
Had unbenighted shone, while the low sun
To recompense his distance, in their sight
Had rounded still th' horizon, and not known
Or East or West, which had forbid the snow 685
From cold Estotiland, and south as far
Beneath Magellan. At that tasted fruit
The sun, as from Thyestean banquet turn'd
His course intended; else how had the world
Inhabited, though sinless, more than now, 690
Avoided pinching cold and scorching heat?
These changes in the Heav'ns, though slow, produc'd
Like change on sea and land, fideral blast,
Vapor, and mist, and exhalation hot,
Corrupt and pestilent: now from the North 695
Of Norumbega, and the Samoed shore,
Bursting their brazen dungeon, arm'd with ice
And snow and hail and stormy gust and flaw,
Boreas and Cæcias and Argestes loud
And Thrafcias rend the woods and seas upturn; 700
With adverse blast upturns them from the South
Notus and Afer black with thundrous clouds
From Serrationa; thwart of these as fierce

Forth rush the Levant and the Ponent winds
Eurus and Zephyr with their lateral noise,
Sirocco, and Libeccio. Thus began
Outrage from lifeless things; but Discord first
Daughter of Sin, among th' irrational,
Death introduc'd through fierce antipathy:
Beast now with beast 'gan war, and fowl with fowl,
And fish with fish; to graze the herball leaving,
Devour'd each other; nor stood much in awe
Of man, but fled him, or with count'nance grim
Glar'd on him passing. These were from without
The growing miseries which Adam saw
Already in part, though hid in gloomiest shade,
To sorrow abandon'd, but worse felt within,
And in a troubled sea of passion tost,
Thus to disburden sought with sad complaint.

O miserable of happy! is this the end
Of this new glorious world, and me so late
The glory of that glory, who now become
Accurs'd of blessed, hide me from the face
Of God, whom to behold was then my highth
Of happiness! yet well, if here would end
The misery; I deserv'd it, and would bear
My own deservings; but this will not serve;
All that I eat or drink, or shall beget,
Is propagated curse. O voice once heard
Delightfully, *Increase and multiply*,
Now death to hear! for what can I increase

Or multiply, but curses on my head?
Who of all ages to succeed, but feeling
The evil on him brought by me, will curse
My head? Ill fare our ancestor impure, 735
For this we may thank Adam; but his thanks
Shall be the execration; so besides
Mine own that bide upon me, all from me
Shall with a fierce reflex on me redound,
On me as on their natural center light. 740
Heavy, though in their place. O fleeting joys
Of Paradise, dear bought with lasting woes!
Did I request thee, Maker, from my clay
To mould me man, did I solicit thee
From darkness to promote me, or here place 745
In this delicious garden? As my will
Concurr'd not to my be'ing, it were but right
And equal to reduce me to my dust,
Desirous to resign and render back
All I receiv'd, unable to perform 750
Thy terms too hard, by which I was to hold
The good I fought not. To the loss of that,
Sufficient penalty, why hast thou added
The sense of endless woes? inexplicable
Thy justice seems; yet to say truth, too late 755
I thus contest; then should have been refus'd
Those terms whatever, when they were propos'd:
Thou didst accept them: wilt thou' enjoy the good,
Then cavil the conditions? and though God

Made thee without thy leave, what if thy son 760
Prove disobedient, and reprov'd, retort,
Wherefore didst thou beget me? I sought it not:
Wouldst thou admit for his contempt of thee
That proud excuse? yet him not thy election,
But natural necessity begot. 765
God made thee of choice his own, and of his own
To serve him; thy reward was of his grace,
Thy punishment then justly is at his will.
Be it so, for I submit; his doom is fair,
That dust I am, and shall to dust return: 770
O welcome hour whenever! why delays
His hand to execute what his decree
Fix'd on this day? why do I overlive,
Why am I mock'd with death, and lengthen'd out
To deathless pain? how gladly would I meet 775
Mortality my sentence, and be earth
Insensible, how glad would lay me down
As in my mother's lap? there I should rest
And sleep secure; his dreadful voice no more
Would thunder in my ears, no fear of worse 780
To me and to my offspring would torment me,
With cruel expectation. Yet one doubt
Pursues me still; lest all I cannot die,
Lest that pure breath of life, the spirit of man
Which God inspir'd, cannot together perish 785
With this corporeal clod; then in the grave,
Or in some other dismal place, who knows

But I shall die a living death? O thought
 Horrid, if true! yet why? it was but breath
 Of life that sinn'd; what dies but what had life 790
 And sin? the body properly hath neither.
 All of me then shall die: let this appease
 The doubt, since human reach no further knows.
 For though the Lord of all be infinite,
 Is his wrath also? be it, man is not so, 795
 But mortal doom'd. How can he exercise
 Wrath without end on man whom death must end?
 Can he make deathless death? that were to make
 Strange contradiction, which to God himself
 Impossible is held, as argument 800
 Of weakness, not of power. Will he draw out,
 For anger's sake, finite to infinite
 In punish'd man, to satisfy his rigor
 Satisfy'd never? that were to extend
 His sentence beyond dust and Nature's law, 805
 By which all causes else according still
 To the reception of their matter act,
 Not to th' extent of their own sphere. But say
 That death be not one stroke, as I suppos'd
 Bereaving sense, but endless misery 810
 From this day onward, which I feel begun
 Both in me, and without me, and so last
 To perpetuity; Ay me, that fear
 Comes thund'ring back with dreadful revolution
 On my defenseless head; both death and I 815

Am found eternal, and incorporate both;
Nor I in my part single, in me all
Posterity stands curs'd: fair patrimony
That I must leave ye, Sons; O were I able
To waste it all myself, and leave ye none
So disinherited how would you bless
Me now your curse! Ah, why should all mankind
For one man's fault thus guiltless be condemn'd,
If guiltless? but from me what can proceed,
But all corrupt, both mind and will deprav'd
Not to do only, but to will the same
With me? how can they then acquitted stand
In sight of God? him after all disputes
Forc'd I absolve: all my evasions vain,
And reasonings, though through mazes, lead me still
But to my own conviction: first and last
On me, me only, as the source and spring
Of all corruption, all the blame lights due;
So might the wrath. Fond wish! couldst thou support
That burden heavier than the Earth to bear,
Than all the world much heavier, though divided
With that bad Woman? thus what thou desir'st
And what thou fear'st, alike destroys all hope
Of refuge, and concludes thee miserable
Beyond all past example and future,
To Satan only like both crime and doom.
O Conscience, into what abyss of fears
And horrors hast thou driven me; out of which

I find no way, from deep to deeper plung'd!

Thus Adam to himself lamented loud
Through the still night, not now, as ere man fell,
Wholesome and cool, and mild, but with black air
Accompanied, with damps and dreadful gloom,
Which to his evil conscience represented
All things with double terror: on the ground
Outstretch'd he lay, on the cold ground, and oft
Curs'd his creation, Death as oft accus'd
Of tardy execution, since denounc'd
The day of his offense. Why comes not Death,
Said he, with one thrice acceptable stroke
To end me? shall Truth fail to keep her word,
Justice divine, not hasten to be just?
But Death comes not at call; Justice divine
Mends not her slowest pace for pray'rs or cries.
O Woods, O Fountains, Hillocks, Dales, and Bowers,
With other echo late I taught your shades
To answer, and resound far other song,
Whom thus afflicted when sad Eve beheld,
Desolate where she sat, approaching nigh,
Soft words to his fierce passion she assay'd:
But her with stern regard he thus repell'd.

Out of my sight, thou Serpent; that name best
Befits thee with him leagu'd, thyself as false
And hateful; nothing wants, but that thy shape,
Like his, and color serpentine may show
Thy inward fraud, to warn all creatures from thee.

Henceforth; lest that too heav'nly form, pretended
To hellish falshood, snare them. But for thee
I had persisted happy, had not thy pride
And wand'ring vanity, when least was safe, 875
Rejected my forewarning, and disdain'd
Not to be trusted, longing to be seen
Though by the Dev'il himself, him overweening
To over-reach, but with the serpent meeting
Fool'd and beguil'd, by him thou, I by thee, 880
To trust thee from my side, imagin'd wise,
Constant, mature, proof against all assaults,
And understood not all was but a show
Rather than solid virtue, all but a rib
Crooked by Nature, bent, as now appears, 885
More to the part sinister, from me drawn,
Well if thrown out, as supernumerary
To my just number found. O why did God,
Creator wise, that peopled highest Heav'n
With spirits masculine, create at last 890
This novelty on Earth, this fair defect
Of Nature, and not fill the world at once
With men as angels without feminine,
Or find some other way to generate
Mankind: this mischief had not then befall'n, 895
And more that shall befall, innumerable
Disturbances on Earth through female snares,
And strait conjunction with this sex: for either
He never shall find out fit mate, but such

As some misfortune brings him, or mistake; 900
 Or whom he wishes most shall seldom gain
 Through her perverseness, but shall see her gain'd
 By a far worse, or if she love, withheld
 By parents; or his happiest choice too late
 Shall meet, already link'd and wedlock-bound 905
 To a fell adversary, his hate or shame:
 Which infinite calamity shall cause
 To human life, and household peace confound.

He added not, and from her turn'd; but Eve
 Not so repuls'd, with tears that ceas'd not flowing,
 And tresses all disorder'd, at his feet 911
 Fell humble, and embracing them, besought
 His peace, and thus proceeded in her plaint.

Forfake me not thus, Adam; witness Heav'n
 What love sincere, and reverence in my heart 915
 I bear thee, and unweeting have offended,
 Unhappily deceiv'd; thy suppliant
 I beg, and clasp thy knees; bereave me not,
 Whereon I live, thy gentle looks, thy aid,
 Thy counsel in this uttermost distress, 920
 My only strength and stay: forlorn of thee,
 Whither shall I betake me, where subsist?
 While yet we live, scarce one short hour perhaps,
 Between us two let there be peace, both joining,
 As join'd in injuries, one enmity 925
 Against a foe by doom express assign'd us,
 That cruel serpent: on me exercise not

Thy hatred for this misery befall'n,
On me already lost, me than thyself
More miserable; both have sinn'd, but thou 930
Against God only', I against God and thee,
And to the place of judgment will return,
There with my cries importune Heav'n, that all
The sentence from thy head remov'd may light
On me, sole cause to thee of all this woe, 935
Me, me only, just object of his ire.

She ended weeping, and her lowly plight,
Immoveable till peace obtain'd from fault
Acknowledg'd and deplor'd, in Adam wrought
Commiseration; soon his heart relented 940
Tow'ards her, his life so late and sole delight,
Now at his feet submissive in distress,
Creature so fair his reconciliation seeking,
His counsel, whom she had displeas'd, his aid;
As one disarm'd, his anger all he lost, 945
And thus with peaceful words uprais'd her soon.

Unwary', and too desirous, as before,
So now of what thou know'st not, who desir'st
The punishment all on thyself; alas,
Bear thine own first, ill able to sustain 950
His full wrath, whose thou feel'st as yet least part,
And my displeasure bear'st so ill. If prayers
Could alter high decrees, I to that place
Would speed before thee, and be louder heard,
That on my head all might be visited, 955

Thy frailty and infirmer sex forgiven,
To me committed and by me expos'd.
But rise, let us no more contend, nor blame
Each other, blam'd enough elsewhere, but strive
In offices of love, how we may lighten 960
Each other's burden in our share of woe;
Since this day's death denounc'd, if ought I see,
Will prove no sudden, but a slow-pac'd evil,
A long day's dying to augment our pain,
And to our seed (O hapless seed!) deriv'd. 965
To whom thus Eve, recovering heart, reply'd.
Adam, by sad experiment I know
How little weight my words with thee can find,
Found so erroneous, thence by just event
Found so unfortunate; nevertheless, 970
Restor'd by thee, vile as I am, to place
Of new acceptance, hopeful to regain
Thy love, the sole contentment of my heart
Living or dying, from thee I will not hide
What thoughts in my unquiet breast are risen, 975
Tending to some relief of our extremes,
Or end, though sharp and sad, yet tolerable,
As in our evils, and of easier choice.
If care of our descent perplex us most,
Which must be born to certain woe, devour'd 980
By Death at last; and miserable it is
To be to others cause of misery,
Our own begotten, and of our loins to bring

Into this curſed world a woeful race,
That after wretched life muſt be at laſt 985
Food for ſo foul a monſter; in thy power
It lies, yet ere conception to prevent
The race unbleſt, to be'ing yet unbegot.
Childleſs thou art, childleſs remain: ſo Death
Shall be deceiv'd his glut, and with us two 990
Be forc'd to ſatisfy his ravenous maw.
But if thou judge it hard and difficult,
Converſing, looking, loving, to abſtain
From Love's due rites, nuptial embraces ſweet,
And with deſire to languish without hope, 995
Before the preſent object languishing
With like deſire, which would be miſery
And torment leſs than none of what we dread;
Then both ourſelves and ſeed at once to free
From what we fear for both, let us make ſhort, 1000
Let us ſeek Death, or he not found, ſupply
With our own hands his office on ourſelves:
Why ſtand we longer ſhivering under fears,
That ſhow no end but death, and have the power,
Of many ways to die the ſhorteſt chuſing; 1005
Deſtruction with deſtruction to deſtroy?
She ended here, or vehement deſpair
Broke off the reſt; ſo much of death her thoughts
Had entertain'd, as dy'd her cheeks with pale.
But Adam with ſuch counſel nothing ſway'd, 1010
To better hopes his more attentive mind

Lab'ring had rais'd, and thus to Eve reply'd.

Eve, thy contempt of life and pleasure seems
To argue in thee something more sublime
And excellent than what thy mind contemns; 1015
But self-destruction therefore sought, refutes
That excellence thought in thee, and implies,
Not thy contempt, but anguish and regret
For loss of life and pleasure overlov'd.
Or if thou covet death, as utmost end 1020
Of misery, so thinking to evade
The penalty pronounc'd, doubt not but God
Hath wiselier arm'd his vengeful ire than so
To be forestall'd; much more I fear lest death
So snatch'd will not exempt us from the pain 1025
We are by doom to pay; rather such acts
Of contumacy will provoke the Highest
To make death in us live: then let us seek
Some safer resolution, which methinks
I have in view, calling to mind with heed 1030
Part of our sentence, that thy seed shall bruise
The serpent's head; piteous amends, unless
Be meant, whom I conjecture, our grand foe
Satan, who in the serpent hath contriv'd
Against us this deceit: to crush his head 1035
Would be revenge indeed; which will be lost
By death brought on ourselves, or childless days
Resolv'd as thou propos'st; so our foe
Shall 'scape his punishment ordain'd, and we

Instead shall double ours upon our heads. 1040
No more be mention'd then of violence
Against ourselves, and wilful barrenness;
That cuts us off from hope, and favors only
Rancor and pride, impatience and despite,
Reluctance against God and his just yoke 1045
Laid on our necks. Remember with what mild
And gracious temper he both heard and judg'd
Without wrath or reviling; we expected
Immediate dissolution, which we thought
Was meant by death that day, when lo, to thee 1050
Pains only in child-bearing were foretold,
And bringing forth, soon recompens'd with joy,
Fruit of thy womb: on me the curse aslope
Glanc'd on the ground; with labor I must earn
My bread; what harm? Idleness had been worse;
My labor will sustain me; and lest cold 1056
Or heat should injure us, his timely care
Hath unbefought provided, and his hands
Cloth'd us unworthy, pitying while he judg'd;
How much more, if we pray him, will his ear 1060
Be open, and his heart to pity' incline,
And teach us further by what means to shun
Th' inclement seasons, rain, ice, hail, and snow?
Which now the sky with various face begins
To show us in this mountain, while the winds 1065
Blow moist and keen, shattering the graceful locks
Of these fair spreading trees; which bids us seek

Some better shroud, some better warmth to cherish
Our lips benum'd, ere this diurnal star
Leave cold the night, how we his gather'd beams 1070
Reflected, may with matter fere foment
Or by collision of two bodies grind
The air attrite to fire, as late the clouds
Jostling or push'd with winds rude in their shock 1074
Tine the flant lightning, whose thwart flame driv'n
Kindles the gummy bark of fir or pine, [down
And sends a comfortable heat from far,
Which might supply the sun: such fire to use,
And what may else be remedy or cure
To evils which our own misdeeds have wrought, 1080
He will instruct us praying, and of grace
Beseeching him, so as we need not fear
To pass commodiously this life, sustain'd
By him with many comforts, till we end
In dust, our final rest and native home. 1085
What better can we do, than to the place
Repairing where he judg'd us, prostrate fall
Before him reverent, and there confess
Humbly our faults, and pardon beg, with tears
Watering the ground, and with our sighs the air 1090
Frequenting, sent from hearts contrite, in sign
Of sorrow unfeign'd, and humiliation meek?
Undoubtedly he will relent and turn
From his displeasure; in whose look serene,
When angry most he seem'd and most severe, 1095

What else but favour, grace, and mercy shone?

So spake our Father penitent, nor Eve
Felt less remorse: they forthwith to the place
Repairing where he judg'd them, prostrate fell
Before him reverent, and both confess'd 1100
Humbly their faults, and pardon begg'd, with tears
Watering the ground, and with their sighs the air
Frequenting, sent from hearts contrite, in sign
Of sorrow' unfeign'd, and humiliation meek.

The End of the Tenth Book.

PARADISE LOST.

BOOK XI.

The Argument.

The Son of God presents to his Father the prayers of our First Parents now repenting, and intercedes for them: God accepts them, but declares that they must no longer abide in Paradise; sends Michael with a band of cherubim to dispossess them; but first to reveal to Adam future things: Michael's coming down. Adam shows to Eve certain ominous signs; he discerns Michael's approach, goes out to meet him; the angel denounces their departure. Eve's lamentation. Adam pleads, but submits: the angel leads him up to a high hill, sets before him in vision what shall happen till the flood.

THUS they in lowliest plight repentant stood
 Praying, for from the mercy-seat above
 Prevenient grace descending had remov'd
 The stony from their hearts, and made new flesh
 Regenerate grow instead, that sighs now breath'd 5
 Unutterable, which the Spi'rit of prayer
 Inspir'd, and wing'd for Heav'n with speedier flight
 Than loudest oratory: yet their port
 Not of mean suiters, nor important less
 Seem'd their petition, than when th' ancient pair 10
 In fables old, less ancient yet than these,
 Deucalion and chaste Pyrrha, to restore
 The race of mankind drown'd, before the shrine
 Of Themis stood devout. To heav'n their prayers
 Flew up, nor miss'd the way, by envious winds 15
 Blown vagabond, or frustrate: in they pass'd

Dimensionless, through heav'nly doors; then clad
With incense, where the golden altar fum'd,
By their great Intercessor, came in sight
Before the Father's throne: then the glad Son
Presenting, thus to intercede began.

See, Father, what first fruits on Earth are sprung
From thy implanted grace in man, these sighs
And pray'rs, which in this golden censer, mix'd
With incense, I thy priest before thee bring,
Fruits of more pleasing savor from thy seed
Sown with contrition in his heart, than those
Which his own hand manuring all the trees
Of Paradise could have produc'd, ere fall'n
From innocence. Now therefore bend thine ear
To supplication, hear his sighs though mute;
Unskilful with what words to pray, let me
Interpret for him, me his Advocate
And Propitiation; all his works on me
Good or not good ingraft, my merit those
Shall perfect, and for these my death shall pay.
Accept me, and in me from these receive
The smell of peace tow'ard mankind; let him live
Before thee reconcil'd, at least his days
Number'd, though sad, till death, his doom, (which I
To mitigate thus plead, not to reverse)
To better life shall yield him, where with me
All my redeem'd may dwell in joy and bliss,
Made one with me as I with thee am one.

To whom the Father, without cloud, serene. 45
 All thy request for man, accepted Son,
 Obtain; all thy request was my decree:
 But longer in that Paradise to dwell,
 The law I gave to Nature him forbids:
 Those pure immortal elements that know 50
 No gross, no unharmonious mixture foul,
 Eject him tainted now, and purge him off
 As a distemper, gross to air as gross,
 And mortal food, as may dispose him best
 For dissolution wrought by sin, that first 55
 Distemper'd all things, and of incorrupt
 Corrupted: I at first with two fair gifts
 Created him endow'd, with happiness
 And immortality: that fondly lost,
 This other serv'd but to eternize woe, 60
 Till I provided death; so death becomes
 His final remedy, and after life
 Try'd in sharp tribulation, and refin'd
 By faith and faithful works, to second life,
 Wak'd in the renovation of the just, 65
 Resigns him up with Heav'n and Earth renew'd.
 But let us call to synod all the blest
 Thro' Heav'n's wide bounds; from them I will not hide
 My judgments, how with mankind I proceed,
 As how with peccant angels late they saw, 70
 And in their state, though firm, stood more confirm'd.
 He ended, and the Son gave signal high

To the bright minister that watch'd; he blew
His trumpet, heard in Oreb since perhaps
When God descended, and perhaps once more 75
To sound at general doom. Th' angelic blast
Fill'd all the regions: from their blissful bowers
Of amarantin shade, fountain or spring,
By the waters of life, where'er they sat
In fellowships of joy, the sons of Light 80
Hasted, resorting to the summons high,
And took their seats; till from his throne supreme
Th' Almighty thus pronounc'd his sovran will.

O Sons, like one of us man is become
To know both good and evil, since his taste 85
Of that defended fruit; but let him boast
His knowledge of good lost, and evil got;
Happier, had it suffic'd him to have known
Good by itself, and evil not at all.
He sorrows now, repents, and prays contrite, 90
My motions in him; longer than they move,
His heart I know, how variable and vain
Self-left. Lest therefore his now bolder hand
Reach also of the tree of Life, and eat,
And live for ever, dream at least to live 95
For ever, to remove him I decree,
And send him from the garden forth to till
The ground whence he was taken, fitter soil.

Michael, this my behest have thou in charge,
Take to thee from among the cherubim 100

Thy choice of flaming warriors, lest the Fiend,
 Or in behalf of man, or to invade
 Vacant possession, some new trouble raise:
 Hasten thee, and from the Paradise of God
 Without remorse drive out the sinful pair,
 From hallow'd ground th' unholy, and denounce
 To them and to their progeny from thence
 Perpetual banishment. Yet lest they faint
 At the sad sentence rigorously urg'd,
 For I behold them soften'd and with tears
 Bewailing their excess, all terror hide:
 If patiently thy bidding they obey,
 Dismiss them not disconsolate; reveal
 To Adam what shall come in future days,
 As I shall thee enlighten; intermix
 My covenant in the Woman's seed renew'd;
 So send them forth, though sorrowing, yet in peace:
 And on the east side of the garden place,
 Where entrance up from Eden easiest climbs,
 Cherubic watch, and of a sword the flame
 Wide-waving, all approach far off to fright,
 And guard all passage to the tree of Life:
 Lest Paradise a receptacle prove
 To spirits foul, and all my trees their prey,
 With whose stol'n fruit man once more to delude.

He ceas'd; and th' arch-angelic Pow'r prepar'd
 For swift descent, with him the cohort bright
 Of watchful cherubim; four faces each

Had, like a double Janus, all their shape
Spangled with eyes, more numerous than those 130
Of Argus, and more wakeful than to drowse,
Charm'd with Arcadian pipe, the past'ral reed
Of Hermes, or his opiate rod. Mean while
To resalute the world with sacred light
Leucothea wak'd, and with fresh dews imbalm'd 135
The Earth, when Adam and first matron Eve
Had ended now their orisons, and found
Strength added from above, new hope to spring
Out of despair, joy, but with fear yet link'd;
Which thus to Eve his welcome words renew'd. 140

Eve, easily may faith admit, that all
The good which we enjoy from Heav'n descends;
But that from us ought should ascend to Heav'n
So prevalent as to concern the mind
Of God high-blest, or to incline his will, 145
Hard to belief may seem; yet this will pray'r
Or one short sigh of human breath, upborne
Ev'n to the seat of God. For since I sought
By pray'r th' offended Deity to appease,
Kneel'd and before him humbled all my heart, 150
Methought I saw him placable and mild,
Bending his ear; persuasion in me grew
That I was heard with favor; peace return'd
Home to my breast, and to my memory
His promise, that thy seed shall bruise our foe; 155
Which then not minded in dismay, yet now

Assures me that the bitterness of death
Is past, and we shall live. Whence hail to thee,
Eve rightly call'd, Mother of all Mankind,
Mother of all things living, since by thee 160
Man is to live, and all things live for man.

To whom thus Eve with sad demeanour meek.
Ill worthy I such title should belong
To me transgressor, who for thee ordain'd
A help, became thy snare; to me reproach 165
Rather belongs, distrust and all dispraise:
But infinite in pardon was my Judge,
That I who first brought death on all, am grac'd
The source of life; next favourable thou,
Who highly thus to' intitle me vouchsaf'st, 170
Far other name deserving. But the field
To labor calls us now with sweat impos'd,
Though after sleepless night; for see the Morn,
All unconcern'd with our unrest, begins
Her rosy progress smiling; let us forth, 175
I never from thy side henceforth to stray,
Where'er our day's work lies, though now injoin'd
Laborious, till day droop; while here we dwell,
What can be toilsome in these pleasant walks?
Here let us live, though in fall'n state, content. 180

So spake, so wish'd much-humbled Eve, but Fate
Subscrib'd not; Nature first gave signs, impress'd
On bird, beast, air, air suddenly eclips'd
After short blush of Morn; nigh in her sight

The bird of Jove, stoop'd from his aery tour, 185
Two birds of gayest plume before him drove;
Down from a hill the beast that reigns in woods,
First hunter then, pursu'd a gentle brace,
Goodliest of all the forest, hart and hind;
Direct to th' Eastern gate was bent their flight. 190
Adam observ'd, and with his eye the chase
Pursuing, not unmov'd to Eve thus spake.

O Eve, some further change awaits us nigh,
Which Heav'n by these mute signs in Nature shows,
Forerunners of his purpose, or to warn 195
Us haply too secure of our discharge
From penalty, because from death releas'd
Some days; how long, and what till then our life,
Who knows, or more than this, that we are dust,
And thither must return and be no more? 200
Why else this double object in our sight
Of flight pursu'd in th' air, and o'er the ground,
One way the self-same hour? why in the East
Darkness e'er day's mid-course, and morning light
More orient in yon western cloud, that draws 205
O'er the blue firmament a radiant white,
And slow descends, with something heav'nly fraught?

He err'd not; for by this the heav'nly bands
Down from a sky of jasper lighted now
In Paradise, and on a hill made halt, 210
A glorious apparition, had not doubt
And carnal fear that day dimm'd Adam's eye.

Not that more glorious, when the angels met
 Jacob in Mahanaim, where he saw
 The field pavilion'd with his guardians bright; 215
 Nor that which on the flaming mount appear'd
 In Dothan, cover'd with a camp of fire,
 Against the Syrian king, who to surprise
 One man, assassin like, had levied war,
 War unproclam'd. The princely hierarch 220
 In their bright stand there left his pow'rs to seize
 Possession of the garden; he alone,
 To find where Adam shelter'd, took his way,
 Not unperceiv'd of Adam, who to Eve,
 While the great Visitant approach'd, thus spake. 225

Eve, now expect great tidings, which perhaps
 Of us will soon determin, or impose
 New laws to be observ'd; for I descry
 From yonder blazing cloud that veils the hill
 One of the heav'nly host, and by his gate 230
 None of the meanest, some great potentate
 Or of the thrones above, such majesty
 Invests him coming; yet not terrible,
 That I should fear, nor sociably mild,
 As Raphael, that I should much confide; 235
 But solemn and sublime, whom not to offend,
 With reverence I must meet, and thou retire.

He ended; and th' arch-angel soon drew nigh,
 Not in his shape celestial, but as man
 Clad to meet man; over his lucid arms 240

A military vest of purple flow'd,
Livelier than Melibœan, or the grain
Of Sarra, worn by kings and heroes old
In time of truce; Iris had dipt the woof;
His starry helm unbuckled show'd him prime 245
In manhood where youth ended; by his side
As in a glist'ring zodiac hung the sword,
Satan's dire dread, and in his hand the spear.
Adam bow'd low; he kingly from his state
Inclin'd not, but his coming thus declar'd. 250

Adam, Heav'n's high behest no preface needs:
Sufficient that thy pray'rs are heard, and Death,
Then due by sentence when thou didst transgress,
Defeated of his seizure many days
Giv'n thee of grace, wherein thou may'st repent, 255
And one bad act with many deeds well done
May'st cover: well may then thy Lord appeas'd
Redeem thee quite from Death's rapacious clame;
But longer in this Paradise to dwell
Permits not; to remove thee I am come, 260
And send thee from the garden forth to till
The ground whence thou wast taken; fitter soil.

He added not; for Adam at the news
Heart-struck with chilling gripe of sorrow stood,
That all his senses bound; Eve, who unseen 265
Yet all had heard, with audible lament
Discover'd soon the place of her retire.
O unexpected stroke, worse than of death!

Must I thus leave thee, Paradise? thus leave
 Thee, native soil, these happy walks and shades, 270
 Fit haunt of gods? where I had hope to spend,
 Quiet though sad, the respite of that day
 That must be mortal to us both. O Flowers,
 That never will in other climate grow,
 My early visitation, and my last 275
 At even, which I bred up with tender hand
 From the first opening bud, and gave ye names,
 Who now shall rear ye to the sun, or rank
 Your tribes, and water from th' ambrosial fount?
 Thee lastly, nuptial Bow'r, by me adorn'd 280
 With what to sight or smell was sweet, from thee
 How shall I part, and whither wander down
 Into a lower world, to this obscure
 And wild? how shall we breathe in other air
 Less pure, accusom'd to immortal fruits? 285

Whom thus the angel interrupted mild:
 Lament not, Eve, but patiently resign
 What justly thou hast lost; nor set thy heart,
 Thus over-fond, on that which is not thine;
 Thy going is not lonely; with thee goes 290
 Thy husband; him to follow thou art bound;
 Where he abides, think there thy native soil.
 Adam by this from the cold sudden damp
 Recovering, and his scatter'd spirits return'd,
 To Michael thus his humble words address'd. 295
 Celestial, whether among the thrones, or nam'd

Of them the high'est, for such of shape may seem
Prince above princes, gently hast thou told
Thy message, which might else in telling wound,
And in performing end us; what besides
Of sorrow and dejection and despair
Our frailty can sustain, thy tidings bring,
Departure from this happy place, our sweet
Recess, and only consolation left
Familiar to our eyes, all places else
Inhospitable appear and desolate,
Nor knowing us nor known: and if by pray'r
Incessant I could hope to change the will
Of him, who all things can, I would not cease
To weary him with my assiduous cries:
But pray'r against his absolute decree
No more avails than breath against the wind,
Blown sitting back on him that breathes it forth:
Therefore to his great bidding I submit
This most affects me, that departing hence,
As from his face I shall be hid, depriv'd
His blessed count'nance; here I could frequent
With worship place by place where he vouchsaf'd
Presence divine, and to my sons relate,
On this mount he appear'd, under this tree
Stood visible, among these plumes his voice
I heard, here with him at this fountain talk'd:
So many grateful altars I would rear
Of grassy turf, and pile up every stone

Of lustre from the brook, in memory, 325
 Or monument to ages, and thereon
 Offer sweet-smelling gums and fruits and flowers ;
 In yonder nether world where shall I seek
 His bright appearances, or footstep trace ?
 For though I fled him angry, yet recall'd 330
 To life prolong'd and promis'd race, I now
 Gladly behold though but his utmost skirts
 Of glory, and far off his steps adore.

To whom thus Michael with regard benign.
 Adam, thou know'st Heav'n his, and all the Earth,
 Not this rock only ; his omnipresence fills 336
 Land, sea, and air, and every kind that lives,
 Fomented by his virtual Pow'r and warm'd
 All th' Earth he gave thee to possess and rule,
 No despicable gift ; surmise not then 340
 His presence to these narrow bounds confin'd
 Of Paradise or Eden : this had been
 Perhaps thy capital seat, from whence had spread
 All generations, and had hither come
 From all the ends of th' Earth, to celebrate 345
 And reverence thee their great Progenitor.
 But this præeminence thou' hast lost, brought down
 To dwell on even ground now with thy sons :
 Yet doubt not but in valley and in plain
 God is as here, and will be found alike 350
 Present, and of his presence many a sign
 Still following thee, still compassing thee round

With goodness and paternal love, his face
 Express, and of his steps the track divine,
 Which that thou may'st believe, and be confirm'd
 Ere thou from hence depart; know I am sent
 To show thee what shall come in future days
 To thee and to thy offspring; good with bad
 Expect to hear; superbal Grace contending
 With sinfulness of men; thereby to learn
 True patience, and to temper joy with fear
 And pious sorrow, equally int' dars'd
 By moderation either state to bear,
 Prosperous or adverse: so shalt thou lead
 Safest thy life, and best prepar'd endure
 Thy mortal passage when it comes. Ascend
 This hill; let Eve (for I have drench'd her eyes)
 Here sleep below; while thou to foresight wak'st;
 As once thou sleptst, while life to life was form'd.

To whom thus Adam gratefully reply'd
 Ascend, I follow thee; safe Guide, the path
 Thou lead'st me, and to the hand of Heav'n submit,
 However chaf'ning, to the evil turn
 My obvious beaust, aiming to overcome
 By suffering, and earn rest from labor won;
 If so I may attain. So both ascend
 In the visions of God: It was a hill
 Of Paradise the highest, from whose top
 The hemisphere of Earth in clearest ken
 Stretch'd out to th' amplest reach of prospect lay.

Not high'er that hill nor wider looking round,
 Whereon for different cause the Tempter set
 Our second Adam in the wilderness,
 To shew him all Earth's kingdoms and their glory.
 His eye might there command wherever stood
 City of old or modern fame, the seat
 Of mightiest empire, from the destin'd walls
 Of Cambaluz, seat of Cathaian Can,
 And Samarchand by Oxus, Temir's throne,
 To Paquin of Sinzahn kings, and thence
 To Agra and Lahor of great Mogul
 Down to the golden Chersonese, or where
 The Persian in Ecbatan sat, or since
 In Hispahan, or where the Russian Ksar
 In Mosco, or the Sultan in Bizance,
 Turchestan-born; nor could his eye not ken
 Th' empire of Negus to his utmost port
 Brecco, and the less maritim kings
 Mombaza, and Quiloa, and Melind;
 And Sofala thought Ophir, to the realm
 Of Congo, and Angola farthest south;
 Or thence from Niger flood to Atlas mount
 The kingdoms of Almanfor, Fez and Sus,
 Marocco and Algiers, and Tremisene
 On Europe thence, and where Rome was to sway
 The world: in spirit perhaps, he also saw
 Rich Mexico the seat of Montezume,
 And Cusco in Peru, the richer seat

Of Atabalipa, and yet unspoil'd
 Guiana, whose great city Geryon's sons
 Call El Dorado: but to nobler sights
 Michael from Adam's eyes the film remov'd,
 Which that false Fruit that promis'd clearer sight
 Had bred; then purg'd with euphrasy and rue
 The visual nerve, for he had much to see;
 And from the well of Life three drops in still
 So deep the power of these ingredients pierc'd,
 E'en to the inmost seat of mental sight,
 That Adam now enforc'd to close his eyes,
 Sunk down; and all his spirits become untranc'd
 But him the gentle angel by the hand
 Soon rais'd, and his attention thus recall'd

Adam, now open thine eyes, and first behold
 Th' effects which thy original crime hath wrought
 In some to spring from thee, who never touch'd
 Th' excepted Tree, nor with the snake conspir'd,
 Nor sinn'd thy sin, yet from that sin derive
 Corruption to bring forth more violent deeds,

His eyes he open'd, and beheld a field,
 Part arable and tilth, whereon were sheaves
 New reap'd; the other part sheep-walks and folds;
 In the midst an altar as the land-mark stood,
 Rustic, of grassy ford; thither anon
 A sweaty reaper from his tillage brought
 First fruits, the green ear, and the yellow sheaf,
 Uncull'd, as came to hand; a shepherd next

More meek came with the firstlings of his flock
 Choicest and best; then sacrificing, laid
 The inwards and their fat, with incense strow'd,
 On the cleft wood; and all due rites perform'd.
 His offering soon propitious fire from Heav'n
 Consum'd with nimble glance, and grateful steam;
 The other's not, for his was not sincere;
 Whereat he only rag'd, and as they talk'd,
 Smote him into the midriff with a stone
 That beat out life; he fell, and deadly pale
 Groan'd out his soul with gashing blood effus'd.
 Much to that sight was Adam in his heart
 Dismay'd, and thus in haste to th' angel cry'd aloud

O Teacher, some great mischief hath befall'n
 To that meek man, who well him self did
 Is pitty thus and pure devotion paid

T' whom Michael thus, he also mov'd; reply'd.
 These two are brethren; Adam, and to come
 Out of thy loins; with' unjust the just hath slain
 For envy that his brother's offering found
 From Heav'n acceptance; but the bloody fact
 Will be aveng'd, and th' other's faith approv'd
 Lose no reward, tho' here thou see him die,
 Rolling in dust and gore. To which our Sire

Alas, both for the deed and for the cause!
 But have I now seen death? is this the way
 I must return to native dust? O fight
 Of terror, foul and ugly to behold,

Horrid to think, how horrible to feel! 465
To whom thus Michaël. Death thou hast seen
In his first shape on man; but many shapes
Of Death, and many are the ways that lead
To his grim cave; all dismal; yet to sense
More terrible at th' entrance than within. 470
Some, as thou saw'st, by violent stroke shall die,
By fire, flood, famine, by intemperance more
In meats and drinks, which on the Earth shall bring
Diseases dire, of which a monstrous crew
Before thee shall appear; that thou may'st know 475
What misery th' inabstinence of Eve
Shall bring on men. Immediately a place
Before his eyes appear'd, sad, noisome, dark,
A lazar-house it seem'd, wherein were laid
Numbers of all diseas'd, all maladies 480
Of ghastly spasm, or racking torture, qualms
Of heart-sick agony, all feverous kinds,
Convulsions, epilepsies, fierce catarrhs,
Intestin stone and ulcer, colic pangs,
Demoniac phrenzy, mooping melancholy, 485
And moon-struck madness, pining atrophy,
Marasmus, and wide-wasting pestilence,
Dropries, and asthmas, and joint-racking rheums,
Dire was the tossing, deep the groans; Despair
Tended the sick busiest from couch to couch; 490
And over them triumphant Death his dart
Shook, but delay'd to strike, though oft invoc'd

With vows, as their chief good, and final hope.
Sight so deform what heart of rock could long
Dry-ey'd behold? Adam could not, but wept, 495
Though not of woman born; compassion quell'd
His best of man, and gave him up to tears
A space, till firmer thoughts restrain'd excess;
And scarce recovering words his plaint renew'd.

O miserable Mankind, to what fall 500
Degraded, to what wretched state reserv'd!
Better end here unborn. Why is life given
To be thus wrested from us? rather why
Obtruded on us thus? who if we knew
What we receive, would either not accept 505
Life offer'd, or soon beg to lay it down.
Glad to be so dismiss'd in peace. Can thus
Th' image of God in man created once
So goodly and erect, though faulty since,
To such unsightly sufferings be debas'd, 510
Under inhuman pains? Why should not man,
Retaining still divine similitude
In part, from such deformities be free,
And for his Maker's image' sake exempt?

Their Maker's image, answer'd Michael, then 515
Forsook them, when themselves they vilify'd
To serve ungovern'd appetite, and took
His image whom they serv'd a brutish vice,
Inductive mainly to the sin of Eve.
Therefore so object is their punishment, 520

Disfiguring not God's likeness, but their own;
Or if his likeness, by themselves defac'd,
While they pervert pure Nature's healthful rules
To loathsome sickness, worthily, since they
God's image did not reverence in themselves. 525

I yield it just, said Adam, and submit;
But is there yet no other way, besides
These painful passages, how we may come
To death, and mix with our connatural dust?

There is, said Michael, if thou well observe 530
The rule of not too much, by Temp'rance taught,
In what thou eat'st and drink'st, seeking from thence
Due nourishment, not gluttonous delight,
Till many years over thy head return:
So may'st thou live, till like ripe fruit thou drop 535
Into thy mother's lap, or be with ease
Gather'd, not harshly pluck'd, for death mature:
This is old age; but then thou must outlive
Thy youth, thy strength, thy beauty, which will change
To wither'd, weak, and gray; thy senses then 540
Obtuse, all taste of pleasure must forego,
To what thou hast; and for the air of youth,
Hopeful and cheerful, in thy blood, will reign
A melancholy damp of cold and dry
To weigh thy spirits down, and last consume 545
The balm of life. To whom our Ancestor

Henceforth I fly not death, nor would prolong
Life much, bent rather how I may be quit

Fairest and easiest of this cumbrous charge,
Which I must keep till my appointed day;
Of rendring up, and patiently attend
My dissolution. Michaël reply'd,

Nor love thy life, nor hate; but what thou liv'st
Live well, how long or short permit to Heav'n;
And now prepare thee for another sight,

He look'd, and saw a spacious plain, whereon
Were tents of various hue; by some were herds
Of cattel grazing; others, whence the sound
Of instruments that made melodious chime
Was heard, of harp and organ; and who mov'd
Their stops and chords was seen; his volant touch
Instinct through all proportions low and high
Fled and pursu'd transverse the resonant fugue,
In other part stood one who at the forge
Lab'ring, two massy clods of ir'on and brasse
Had melted, (whether found where casual fire
Had wasted woods on mountain or in vale,
Down to the veins of earth, thence gliding hot
To some cave's mouth, or whether wash'd by stream
From underground) the liquid ore he drain'd
Into fit molds prepar'd; from which he form'd
First his own tools; then, what might else be wrought
Fusil or grav'n in metal. After these,
But on the hither side, a different sort
From the high neighb'ring hills, which was their seat,
Down to the plain descended: by their guise

Just men they seem'd, and all their study bent
To worship God aright, and know his works
Not hid, nor those things last which might preserve
Freedom and peace to men: they on the plain 580
Long had not walk'd, when from the tents behold
A bevy of fair women, richly gay
In gems and wanton dress; to th' harp they sung
Soft amorous ditties, and in dance came on:
The men though grave, ey'd them, and let their eyes
Rove without rein, till in the amorous net 586
Fast caught, they lik'd, and each his liking chose;
And now of love they treat, till th' ev'ning star,
Love's harbinger, appear'd; then all in heat
They light the nuptial torch, and bid invoke 590
Hymen, then first to marriage rites invok'd:
With feast and music all the tents resound.

Such happy interview and fair event
Of love and youth not lost, songs, garlands, flowers,
And charming symphonies attach'd the heart 595
Of Adam, soon inclin'd to' admit delight,
The bent of Nature; which he thus express'd.

True opener of mine eyes, prime Angel blest,
Much better seems this vision, and more hope
Of peaceful days portends than those two past; 600
Those were of hate and death, or pain much worse,
Here Nature seems fulfill'd in all her ends.

To whom thus Michael. Judge not what is best
By pleasure, though to Nature seeming meet,

Created, as thou art, to nobler end 605
 Holy and pure, conformity divine.
 'Those tents thou saw'st so pleasant, were the tents
 Of Wickedness, wherein shall dwell his race
 Who slew his brother; studious they appear
 Of arts that polish life, inventors rare, 610
 Unmindful of their Maker, though his Spirit
 Taught them, but they his gifts acknowledg'd none.
 Yet they a beauteous offspring shall beget;
 For that fair female troop thou saw'st, that seem'd
 Of goddesses, so blithe, so smooth, so gay, 615
 Yet empty of all good, wherein consists
 Woman's domestic honor and chief praise;
 Bred only and completed to the taste
 Of lustful appetite, to sing, to dance,
 To dress, and troll the tongue, and roll the eye. 620
 To these that sober race of men, whose lives
 Religious titled them the sons of God,
 Shall yield up all their virtue, all their fame
 Ignobly, to the trains and to the smiles
 Of these fair atheists, and now swim in joy, 625
 Erelong to swim at large; and laugh, for which
 The world ere long a world of tears must weep.

To whom thus Adam of short joy bereft.
 O pity' and shame, that they who to live well
 Enter'd so fair, should turn aside to tread 630
 Paths indirect, or in the mid way faint!
 But still I see the tenor of man's woe

Holds on the same, from woman to begin.

From man's effeminate slackness it begins,
Said th' angel, who should better hold his place 635
By wisdom and superior gifts receiv'd.
But now prepare thee for another scene.

He look'd, and saw wide territory spread
Before him, towns, and rural works between,
Cities of men with lofty gates and towers, 640
Concourse in arms, fierce faces threat'ning war,
Giants of mighty bone, and bold emprise;
Part wield their arms, part curb the foaming steed,
Single or in array of battel rang'd
Both horse and foot, nor idly must'ring stood; 645
One way a band select from forage drives
A herd of beeves, fair oxen and fair kine
From a fat meadow ground; or fleecy flock,
Ewes and their bleating lambs over the plain,
Their booty; scarce with life the shepherds fly, 650
But call in aid, which makes a bloody fray;
With cruel torneament the squadrons join;
Where cattel pastur'd late, now scatter'd lies
With carcasses and arms th' infanguin'd field
Deserted: others to a city strong 655
Lay siege, incamp'd; by battery, scale, and mine,
Assaulting; others from the wall defend
With dart and javelin, stones and sulphurous fire;
On each hand slaughter and gigantic deeds.
In other part the scepter'd heralds call 660

'To council in the city gates : anon
 Grey-headed men and grave, with warriors mix'd,
 Assemble, and harangues are heard, but soon
 In factious opposition, till at last
 Of middle age one rising, eminent 665
 In wise deport, spake much of right and wrong,
 Of justice, of religion, truth and peace,
 And judgment from above ; him old and young
 Exploded and had seis'd with violent hands,
 Had not a cloud descending snatch'd him thence 670
 Unseen amid the throng : so violence
 Proceeded, and oppression, and sword-law
 Through all the plain, and refuge none was found.
 Adam was all in tears, and to his guide
 Lamenting turn'd full sad : O what are these, 675
 Death's ministers, not men, who thus deal death
 Inhumanly to men, and multiply
 Ten thousandfold the sin of him who slew
 His brother : for of whom such massacre
 Make they but of their brethren, men of men ? 680
 But who was that just man, whom had not Heav'n
 Rescued, had in his righteousness been lost ?
 To whom thus Michael, These are the product
 Of those ill-mated marriages thou saw'st ;
 Where good with bad were match'd, who of themselves
 Abhor to join ; and by imprudence mix'd ; 686
 Produce prodigious births of body or mind.
 Such were these giants, men of high renown ;

For in those days Might only shall be' admir'd,
And Valor and heroic Virtue call'd; 699
To overcome in battel, and subdue
Nations, and bring home spoils with infinite
Man-slaughter, shall be held the highest pitch
Of human glory, and for glory done
Of triumph, to be stil'd great Conquerors, 695
Patrons of Mankind, Gods, and sons of Gods,
Destroyers rightlier call'd and Plagues of men.
Thus fame shall be achiev'd, renown on Earth,
And what most merits fame in silence hid.
But he the sev'nth from thee, whom thou beheldst
The only righteous in a world perverse, 701
And therefore hated, therefore so beset
With foes for daring single to be just,
And utter odious truth, that God would come
To judge them with his saints; him the Most High
Rapt in a balmy cloud, with winged steeds 706
Did, as thou saw'st, receive, to walk with God
High in salvation and the climes of bliss,
Exempt from death; to show thee what reward
Awaits the good, the rest what punishment; 710
Which now direct thine eyes and soon behold.

He look'd, and saw the face of things quite chang'd;
The brazen throat of War had ceas'd to roar;
All now was turn'd to jollity and game,
To luxury and riot, feast and dance, 715
Marrying or prostituting, as beset,

Rape or adultery, where passing fair
Allur'd them; thence from cups to civil broils.
At length a reverend fire among them came,
And of their doings great dislike declar'd 726
And testify'd against their ways; he oft
Frequented their assemblies, whereso met,
Triumphs or festivals, and to them preach'd
Conversion and repentance, as to souls
In prison under judgments imminent: 735
But all in vain: which when he saw, he ceas'd
Contending, and remov'd his tents far off;
Then from the mountain hewing timber tall,
Began to build a vessel of huge bulk,
Measur'd by cubit, length, and breadth, and highth,
Smear'd round with pitch, and in the side a door 731
Contriv'd, and of provisions laid in large
For man and beast: when lo a wonder strange!
Of every beast, and bird, and insect small
Came sev'ns, and pairs, and enter'd in, as taught 735
Their order: last the fire, and his three sons
With their four wives; and God made fast the door.
Meanwhile the south-wind rose, and with black wings
Wide hovering, all the clouds together drove
From under Heav'n; the hills to their supply 740
Vapor, and exhalation dusk and moist,
Sent up amain; and now the thicken'd sky
Like a dark cieling stood; down rush'd the rain
Impetuous, and continued till the Earth

No more was seen; the floating vessel swum 745
Uplifted, and secure with beaked prow
Rode tilting o'er the waves; all dwellings else
Flood overwhelm'd, and them with all their pomp
Deep under water roll'd; sea cover'd sea,
Sea without shore; and in their palaces 750
Where Luxury late reign'd, sea-monsters whelp'd
And stabled; of mankind, so numerous late,
All left, in one small bottom swum imbark'd.
How didst thou grieve then, Adam, to behold
The end of all thy offspring, end so sad, 755
Depopulation? thee another flood,
Of tears and sorrow' a flood thee also drown'd,
And sunk thee as thy sons; till gently rear'd
By th' angel, on thy feet thou stood'st at last,
Though comfortless, as when a father mourns 760
His children, all in view destroy'd at once;
And scarce to th' angel utter'dst thus thy plaint.

O Visions ill foreseen! better had I
Liv'd ignorant of future, so had borne
My part of evil only, each day's lot 765
Enough to bear; those now, that were dispens'd
The burd'n of many ages, on me light
At once, by my foreknowledge gaining birth
Abortive, to torment me ere their being,
With thought that they must be. Let no man seek
Henceforth to be foretold what shall befall 771
Him or his children; evil he may be sure,

Which neither his foreknowing can prevent,
And he the future evil shall no less
In apprehension than in substance feel 775
Grievous to bear: but that care now is past,
Man is not whom to warn: those few escap'd
Famine and anguish will at last consume
Wand'ring that watry desert; I had hope
When violence was ceas'd, and war on Earth, 780
All would have then gone well, peace would have
With length of happy days the race of man; [crown'd
But I was far deceiv'd; for now I see
Peace to corrupt no less than war to waste.
How comes it thus? unfold celestial Guide, 785
And whether here the race of man will end,

To whom thus Michael. Those whom last thou saw'st
In triumph and luxurious wealth, are they
First seen in acts of prowess eminent
And great exploits, but of true virtue void; 790
Who having spilt much blood, and done much waste
Subduing nations, and achiev'd thereby
Fame in the world, high titles, and rich prey,
Shall change their course to pleasure, ease, and sloth,
Surfeit, and lust, till wantonness and pride 795
Raise out of friendship hostile deeds in peace.
The conquer'd also, and enslav'd by war
Shall with their freedom lost all virtue lose
And fear of God, from whom their piety feign'd
In sharp contest of battel found no aid 800

Against invaders; therefore cool'd in zeal
Thenceforth shall practice how to live secure,
Worldly or dissolute, on what their lords
Shall leave them to enjoy; for th' Earth shall bear
More than enough, that temp'rance may be try'd:
So all shall turn degenerate, all deprav'd, 806
Justice and temp'rance, truth and faith forgot;
One man except, the only son of Light
In a dark age, against example good,
Against allurements, custom, and a world 810
Offended; fearless of reproach and scorn,
Or violence; he of their wicked ways
Shall them admonish, and before them set
The paths of righteousness, how much more safe,
And full of peace, denouncing wrath to come, 815
On their impenitence; and shall return
Of them derided, but of God observ'd
The one just man alive; by his command
Shall build a wondrous ark, as thou beheldst,
To save himself and household from amidst 820
A world devote to universal wrack.
No sooner he with them of man and beast
Select for life shall in the ark be lodg'd,
And shelter'd round, but all the cataracts
Of Heav'n set open on the Earth shall pour 825
Rain day and night; all fountains of the deep
Broke up, shall heave the ocean to usurp
Beyond all bounds, till inundation rise

Above the highest hills; then shall this mount
Of Paradise by might of waves be mov'd 830
Out of his place, push'd by the horned Flood,
With all his verdure spoil'd, and trees adrift,
Down the great river to the opening gulf,
And there take root an island salt and bare,
The haunt of seals, and orcs, and sea-mews clang:
To teach thee that God attributes to place 836
No sanctity, if none be thither brought
By men who there frequent, or therein dwell.
And now what further shall ensue, behold.

He look'd, and saw the ark hull on the flood, 840
Which now abated; for the clouds were fled,
Driv'n by a keen north-wind, that blowing dry
Wrinkled the face of Deluge, as decay'd;
And the clear sun on his wide watry glass
Gaz'd hot, and of the fresh wave largely drew, 845
As after thirst, which made their flowing shrink
From standing lake to tripping ebb, that stole
With soft foot towards the Deep; who now had stopt
His sluices, as the Heav'n his windows shut.
The ark no more now flotes, but seems on ground
Fast on the top of some high mountain fix'd. 851
And now the tops of hills as rocks appear;
With clamor thence the rapid currents drive
Towards the retreating sea their furious tide.
Forthwith from out the ark a raven flies, 855
And after him, the surer messenger,

A dove sent forth once and again to spy
Green tree or ground where on his foot may light;
The second time returning, in his bill
An olive leaf he brings, pacific sign: 860

Anon dry ground appears, and from his ark
The ancient fire descends with all his train;
Then with uplifted hands, and eyes devout,
Grateful to Heav'n, over his head beholds
A dewy cloud, and in the cloud a bow 865
Conspicuous with three list'd colors gay,
Betokening peace from God, and covenant new.
Whereat the heart of Adam erst so sad
Greatly rejoic'd, and thus his joy broke forth.

O thou who future things canst represent 870
As present, heav'nly Instructor, I revive
At this last sight, assur'd that man shall live
With all the creatures, and their seed preserve.
Far less I now lament for one whole world
Of wicked sons destroy'd, than I rejoice 875
For one man found so perfect and so just,
That God vouchsafes to raise another world
From him, and all his anger to forget.
But say, what mean those color'd streaks in Heav'n
Distended as the brow of God appear'd, 880
Or serve they as a flow'ry verge to bind
The fluid skirts of that same watry cloud,
Lest it again dissolve and show'r the Earth?
To whom th' arch-angel. Dext'rously thou aim'st;

So willingly doth God remit his ire, 885
 Though late repenting him of man deprav'd,
 Griev'd at his heart, when looking down he saw
 The whole Earth fill'd with violence, and all flesh
 Corrupting each their way; yet those remov'd,
 Such grace shall one just man find in his sight, 890
 That he relents, not to blot out mankind,
 And makes a covenant; never to destroy
 The Earth again by flood, nor let the sea
 Surpass his bounds, nor rain to drown the world
 With man therein or beast; but when he brings 895
 Over the Earth a cloud, will therein set
 His triple-color'd bow, whereon to look,
 And call to mind his covenant: Day and Night,
 Seed-time and Harvest, Heat and hoary Frost 899
 Shall hold their course, till fire purge all things new,
 Both Heav'n and Earth wherein the just shall dwell.

The End of the Eleventh Book.



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PARADISE LOST.

BOOK XII.

The Argument.

The angel Michael continues from the Flood to relate what shall succeed; then, in the mention of Abraham, comes by degrees to explain, who that Seed of the Woman shall be, which was promised Adam and Eve in the fall; his incarnation, death, resurrection, and ascension; the state of the Church till his second coming. Adam greatly satisfied and recomforted by these relations and promises descends the hill with Michael; wakens Eve, who all this while had slept, but with gentle dreams compos'd to quietness of mind and submission. Michael in either hand leads them out of Paradise, the fiery sword waving behind them, and the cherubim taking their stations to guard the place.

As one who in his journey bates at noon,
Though bent on speed; so here th'arch-angel paus'd
Betwixt the world destroy'd and world restor'd,
If Adam ought perhaps might interpose;
Then with transiſion ſweet new ſpeech reſumes. 5
Thus thou haſt ſeen one world begin and end;
And man as from a ſecond ſtock proceed.
Much thou haſt yet to ſee, but I perceive
Thy mortal ſight to fail; objects divine
Muſt needs impair and weary human ſenſe: 10
Henceforth what is to come I will relate,
Thou therefore give due audience, and attend.
This ſecond ſource of men, while yet but few,
And while the dread of judgment paſt remains
Freſh in their minds, fearing the Deity, 15

With some regard to what is just and right
Shall lead their lives, and multiply apace,
Lab'ring the soil, and reaping plenteous crop,
Corn wine and oil; and from the herd or flock,
Oft sacrificing bullock, lamb, or kid, 20
With large wine-offerings pour'd, and sacred feast
Shall spend their days in joy unblam'd, and dwell
Long time in peace by families and tribes
Under paternal rule; till one shall rise
Of proud ambitious heart, who not content 25
With fair equality, fraternal state,
Will arrogate dominion undeserv'd
Over his brethren, and quite dispossess
Concord and law of Nature from the Earth,
Hunting (and men not beasts shall be his game) 30
With war and hostile snare such as refuse
Subjection to his empire tyrannous:
A mighty Hunter thence he shall be stil'd
Before the Lord, as in despite of Heav'n,
Or from Heav'n claiming second sovereignty; 35
And from rebellion shall derive his name,
'Though of rebellion others he accuse.
He with a crew, whom like ambition joins
With him or under him to tyrannize,
Marching from Eden tow'ards the West, shall find 40
The plain, wherein a black bituminous gurge
Boils out from under ground, the mouth of Hell;
Of brick, and of that stuff they cast to build

A city' and tower, whose top may reach to Heav'n;
And get themselves a name, lest far dispers'd 45
In foreign lands their memory be lost,
Regardless whether good or evil fame.

But God who oft descends to visit men
Unseen, and through their habitations walks
To mark their doings, them beholding soon, 50
Comes down to see their city, ere the tower
Obstruct Heav'n-tow'rs, and in derision sets
Upon their tongues a various spi'rit to raise
Quite out their native language, and instead
To sow a jangling noise of words unknown: 55
Forthwith a hideous gabble rises loud
Among the builders; each to other calls
Not understood, till hoarse, and all in rage,
As mock'd they storm; great laughter was in Heav'n
And looking down, to see the hubbub strange 60
And hear the din; thus was the building left
Ridiculous, and the work Confusion nam'd.

Whereto thus Adam fatherly displeas'd.
O execrable son so to aspire
Above his brethren, to himself assuming 65
Authority usurp'd, from God not given:
He gave us only over beast, fish, fowl,
Dominion absolute; that right we hold
By his donation; but man over men
He made not lord; such title to himself 70
Reserving, human left from human free.

But this usurper his encroachment proud
Stays not on man; to God his tower intends
Siege and defiance: wretched man! what food
Will he convey up thither to sustain 75
Himself and his rash army, where thin air
Above the clouds will pine his entrails gross,
And famish him of breath, if not of bread?

To whom thus Michael, Justly thou abhorr'st
That son, who on the quiet state of men 80
Such trouble brought, affecting to subdue
Rational liberty; yet know withal,
Since thy origi'nal lapse, true Liberty
Is lost, which always with right Reason dwells
Twinn'd, and from her hath no dividual being: 85
Reason in man obscur'd, or not obey'd,
Immediately inordinate desires
And upstart passions catch the government
From Reason, and to servitude reduce
Man till then free. Therefore since he permits 90
Within himself unworthy powers to reign
Over free Reason, God in judgment just
Subjects him from without to violent lords;
Who oft as undeservedly inthral
His outward freedom: tyranny must be, 95
Though to the tyrant thereby no excuse.
Yet sometimes nations will decline so low
From virtue, which is reason, that no wrong,
But justice, and some fatal curse annex'd

Deprives them of their outward liberty, 100
 Their inward lost: witness th' irreverent son
 Of him who built the ark, who for the shame
 Done to his father, heard this heavy curse,
Servant of servants, on his vicious race.
 Thus will this latter, as the former world, 105
 Still tend from bad to worse, till God at last
 Wearied with their iniquities, withdraw
 His presence from among them, and avert
 His holy eyes; resolving from thenceforth
 To leave them to their own polluted ways; 110
 And one peculiar nation to select
 From all the rest, of whom to be invoc'd,
 A nation from one faithful man to spring: 115
 Him on this side Euphrates yet residing,
 Bred up in idol-worship; O that men
 (Canst thou believe?) should be so stupid grown,
 While yet the Patriarch liv'd, who scap'd the flood,
 As to forsake the living God, and fall 120
 To worship their own work in wood and stone
 For gods! yet him God the Most High vouchsafes
 To call by vision from his father's house, 125
 His kindred and false gods, into a land
 Which he will shew him, and from him will raise
 A mighty nation, and upon him shower
 His benediction so, that in his seed 130
 All nations shall be blest; he strait obeys,
 Not knowing to what land, yet firm believes:

I see him, but thou canst not, with what faith
He leaves his gods, his friends, and native soil
Ur of Chaldea, passing now the ford 130
To Haran, after him a cumbrous train
Of herds and flocks, and numerous servitude;
Not wand'ring poor, but trusting all his wealth
With God, who call'd him, in a land unknown.
Canaan he now attains; I see his tents 135
Pitch'd about Sechem, and the neighb'ring plain
Of Moreh; there by promise he receives
Gift to his progeny of all that land,
From Hamath northward to the desert South,
(Things by their names I call, though yet unnam'd)
From Hermon east to the great western sea; 141
Mount Hermon, yonder sea, each place behold
In prospect, as I point them; on the shore
Mount Carmel; here the double-founted stream
Jordan, true limit eastward; but his sons 145
Shall dwell to Senir, that long ridge of hills.
This ponder, that all nations of the Earth
Shall in his seed be blessed; by that seed
Is meant thy great Deliverer, who shall bruise
The serpent's head; whereof to thee anon 150
Plainlier shall be reveal'd. This patriarch blest,
Whom faithful Abraham due time shall call,
A son, and of his son a grand-child leaves,
Like him in faith, in wisdom, and renown;
The grand-child with twelve sons increas'd departs

From Canaan, to a land hereafter call'd 156
 Egypt, divided by the river Nile;
 See where it flows, disgorging at sev'n mouths
 Into the sea: to sojourn in that land
 He comes invited by a younger son 160
 In time of dearth, a son whose worthy deeds
 Raise him to be the second in that realm
 Of Pharaoh: there he dies, and leaves his race
 Growing into a nation, and now grown
 Suspected to a sequent king, who seeks 165
 To stop their overgrowth, as inmate guests
 Too numerous; whence of guests he makes them slaves
 Inhospitably, and kills their infant males:
 Till by two brethren (those two brethren call
 Moses and Aaron) sent from God to clame 170
 His people from inthralment, they return
 With glory' and spoil back to their promis'd land.
 But first the lawless tyrant, who denies
 To know their God, or message to regard,
 Must be compell'd by signs and judgments dire; 175
 To blood unshed the rivers must be turn'd;
 Frogs, lice, and flies must all his palace fill
 With loath'd intrusion, and fill all the land;
 His cattel must of rot and murren die;
 Botches and blains must all his flesh imboss, 180
 And all his people; thunder mix'd with hail,
 Hail mix'd with fire must rend th' Egyptian sky,
 And wheel on th' Earth, devouring where it rolls;

What it devours not, herb, or fruit, or grain,
A darksome cloud of locusts swarming down 185
Must eat, and on the ground leave nothing green;
Darkness must overshadow all his bounds,
Palpable darkness, and blot out three days;
Last with one midnight stroke all the first-born
Of Egypt must lie dead. Thus with ten wounds 190
The river-dragon tam'd at length submits
To let his sojourners depart, and oft
Humbles his stubborn heart, but still as ice
More harden'd after thaw, till in his rage
Pursuing whom he late dismiss'd, the sea 195
Swallows him with his host, but them lets pass
As on dry land between two crystal walls,
Aw'd by the rod of Moses so to stand
Divided, till his rescued gain their shore:
Such wondrous power God to his saint will lend, 200
Though present in his angel, who shall go
Before them in a cloud, and pill'ar of fire,
By day a cloud, by night a pill'ar of fire,
To guide them in their journey, and remove
Behind them, while th' obdurate king pursues: 205
All night he will pursue, but his approach
Darkness defends between till morning watch;
Then through the fiery pillar and the cloud
God looking forth will trouble all his host,
And craze their chariot wheels: when by command
Moses once more his potent rod extends 211

Over the sea; the sea his rod obeys;
On their imbattel'd ranks the waves return,
And overwhelm their war: the race elect
Safe towards Canaan from the shore advance 215
Through the wild desert, not the readiest way,
Lest entering on the Canaanite alarm'd
War terrify them inexpert, and fear
Return them back to Egypt, chusing rather
Inglorious life with servitude; for life 220
To noble and ignoble is more sweet
Untrain'd in arms, where Rashness leads not on.
This also shall they gain by their delay
In the wide wilderness, there they shall found
Their government, and their great senate chuse 225
Through the twelve Tribes, to rule by laws ordain'd:
God from the mount of Sinai, whose gray top
Shall tremble, he descending, will himself
In thunder, lightning, and loud trumpet's sound,
Ordain them laws; part such as appertain 230
To civil justice, part religious rites
Of sacrifice, informing them, by types
And shadows, of that destin'd seed to bruise
The serpent, by what means he shall achieve
Mankind's deliverance. But the voice of God 235
To mortal ear is dreadful; they beseech
That Moses might report to them his will,
And terror cease; he grants what they besought,
Instructed that to God is no access

Without Mediator, whose high office now 240
Moses in figure bears, to introduce
One greater, of whose day he shall foretel,
And all the prophets in their age the times
Of great Messi'ah shall sing. Thus laws and rites
Establish'd, such delight hath God in men 245
Obedient to his will, that he vouchsafes
Among them to set up his tabernacle,
The Holy One with mortal men to dwell :
By his prescript a sanctuary is fram'd
Of cedar, overlaid with gold, therein 250
An ark, and in the ark his testimony,
The records of his covenant, over these
A mercy-seat of gold between the wings
Of two bright cherubim ; before him burn
Sev'n lamps as in a zodiac representing 255
The heav'nly fires ; over the tent a cloud
Shall rest by day, a fiery gleam by night,
Save when they journey, and at length they come,
Conducted by his angel to the land
Promis'd to Abraham and his seed : the rest 260
Were long to tell, how many battels fought,
How many kings destroy'd, and kingdoms won,
Or how the sun shall in mid Heav'n stand still
A day entire, and Night's due course adjourn,
Man's voice commanding, Sun in Gibeon stand, 265
And thou Moon in the vale of Aialon,
Till Israel overcome ; so call the third

From Abraham, son of Isaac, and from him
His whole descent, who thus shall Canaan win.

Here Adam interpos'd. O Sent from Heav'n, 270
Inlightner of my darkness, gracious things
'Thou hast reveal'd, those chiefly which concern
Just Abraham and his seed: now first I find
Mine eyes true opening, and my heart much eas'd,
Erewhile perplex'd with thoughts what would become
Of me and all mankind; but now I see 276
His day, in whom all nations shall be blest,
Favor unmerited by me, who sought
Forbidden knowledge by forbidden means.

This yet I apprehend not, why to those 280
Among whom God will deign to dwell on Earth
So many and so various laws are given;
So many laws argue so many sins
Among them; how can God with such reside?

To whom thus Michael. Doubt not but that Sin
Will reign among them, as of thee begot; 286
And therefore was law giv'n them to evince
Their natural pravity, by stirring up
Sin against Law to fight: that when they see
Law can discover sin, but not remove, 290
Save by those shadowy expiations weak,
The blood of bulls and goats, they may conclude
Some blood more precious must be paid for man,
Just for unjust, that in such righteousness
To them by faith imputed, they may find 295

Justification towards God, and peace
Of conscience, which the law by ceremonies
Cannot appease, nor man the moral part
Perform, and not performing cannot live.
So law appears imperfect, and but given 300
With purpose to resign them in full time
Up to a better covenant, disciplin'd
From shadowy types to truth, from flesh to spirit,
From imposition of strict laws to free
Acceptance of large grace, from servile fear 305
To filial, works of law to works of faith.
And therefore shall not Moses, though of God
Highly belov'd, being but the minister
Of Law, his people into Canaan lead;
But Joshua whom the Gentiles Jesus call, 310
His name and office bearing, who shall quell
The adversary serpent, and bring back
Through the world's wilderness long wander'd man
Safe to eternal paradise of rest.
Mean while they in their earthly Canaan plac'd 315
Long time shall dwell and prosper, but when sins
National interrupt their public peace,
Provoking God to raise them enemies;
From whom as oft he saves them penitent
By judges first, then under kings; of whom 320
The second, both for piety renown'd
And puissant deeds, a promise shall receive
Irrevocable, that his regal throne

For ever shall endure; the like shall sing
All Prophecy, that of the royal stock 325
Of David (so I name this king) shall rise
A son, the woman's seed to thee foretold,
Foretold to Abraham, as in whom shall trust
All nations, and to kings foretold, of kings
The last, for of his reign shall be no end. 330
But first a long succession must ensue,
And his next son, for wealth and wisdom fam'd,
The clouded ark of God, till then in tents
Wand'ring, shall in a glorious temple' inshrine.
Such follow him as shall be register'd 335
Part good, part bad, of bad the longer scroll,
Whose foul idolatries, and other faults
Heap'd to the popular sum, will so incense
God, as to leave them, and expose their land,
'Their city', his temple, and his holy ark 340
With all his sacred things, a scorn and prey
To that proud city, whose high walls thou saw'st
Left in confusion, Babylon thence call'd.
There in captivity he lets them dwell
The space of sev'nty years, then brings them back,
Remembring mercy, and his covenant sworn 346
To David, stablish'd as the days of Heav'n.
Return'd from Babylon by leave of kings
Their lords, whom God dispos'd, the house of God
They first re-edify, and for a while 350
In mean estate live moderate, till grown

In wealth and multitude, factious they grow;
But first among the priests dissention springs,
Men who attend the altar, and should most
Endeavor peace: their strife pollution brings 355
Upon the temple' itself: at last they seize
The scepter, and regard not David's sons,
Then lose it to a stranger, that the true
Anointed king Messiah might be born
Barr'd of his right; yet at his birth a star 360
Unseen before in Heav'n proclames him come,
And guides the eastern Sages, who inquire
His place, to offer incense, myrrh, and gold;
His place of birth a solemn angel tells
To simple shepherds, keeping watch by night; 365
They gladly thither haste, and by a quire
Of squadron'd angels hear his carol sung.
A virgin is his mother, but his sire
The power of the Most High; he shall ascend
The throne hereditary, and bound his reign 370
With Earth's wide bounds, his glory with the Heav'ns.
He ceas'd, discerning Adam with such joy
Surcharg'd, as had like grief been dew'd in tears,
Without the vent of words, which these he breath'd.
O Prophet of glad tidings, finisher 375
Of utmost hope! now clear I understand
What oft my steddier thoughts have search'd in vain;
Why our great expectation should be call'd
The Seed of Woman: Virgin Mother, hail,

High in the love of Heav'n, yet from my loins 380
Thou shalt proceed, and from thy womb the Son
Of God Most High; so God with Man unites.

Needs must the serpent now his capital bruise
Expect with mortal pain: say where and when 384
Their fight, what stroke shall bruise the victor's heel.

To whom thus Michael. Dream not of their fight,
As of a duel, or the local wounds
Of head or heel: not therefore joins the Son
Manhood to God-head, with more strength to foil
Thy enemy; nor so is overcome 390
Satan, whose fall from Heav'n, a deadlier bruise,
Disabled not to give thee thy death's wound:

Which he, who comes thy Saviour, shall recure,
Not by destroying Satan, but his works
In thee and in thy seed: nor can this be 395
But by fulfilling that which thou didst want,
Obedience to the law of God, impos'd
On penalty of death, and suffering death,
The penalty to thy transgression due,
And due to theirs which out of thine will grow: 400
So only can high justice rest appaid.

The law of God exact he shall fulfil
Both by obedience and by love, though love
Alone fulfil the law; thy punishment
He shall endure by coming in the flesh 405
To a reproachful life and cursed death,
Proclaiming life to all who shall believe

In his redemption, and that his obedience
Imputed becomes theirs by faith, his merits
To save them, not their own, though legal works.
For this he shall live hated, be blasphem'd, 411
Seis'd on by force, judg'd, and to death condemn'd
A shameful and accurs'd, nail'd to the cross
By his own nation, slain for bringing life;
But to the cross he nails thy enemies, 415
The law that is against thee, and the sins
Of all mankind, with him there crucify'd,
Never to hurt them more who rightly trust
In this his satisfaction; so he dies,
But soon revives; Death over him no power 420
Shall long usurp; ere the third dawning light
Return, the stars of morn shall see him rise
Out of his grave, fresh as the dawning light,
Thy ransom paid, which man from death redeems,
His death for man, as many as offer'd life 425
Neglect not, and the benefit embrace
By faith not void of works: this God-like act
Annuls thy doom, the death thou shouldst have dy'd,
In sin for ever lost from life; this act
Shall bruise the head of Satan, crush his strength, 430
Defeating Sin and Death, his two main arms,
And fix far deeper in his head their stings
Than temp'ral death shall bruise the victor's heel,
Or theirs whom he redeems, a death like sleep,
A gentle wafting to immortal life, 435

Nor after resurrection shall he stay
Longer on Earth than certain times to' appear
To his disciples, men who in his life
Still follow'd him; to them shall leave in charge
To teach all nations what of him they learn'd
And his salvation, them who shall believe
Baptizing in the profusent stream, the sign
Of washing them from guilt of sin to life
Pure, and in mind prepar'd, if so befall
For death, like that which the Redeemer dy'd.
All nations they shall teach; for from that day
Not only to the sons of Abraham's loins
Salvation shall be preach'd, but to the sons
Of Abraham's faith wherever through the world;
So in his seed all nations shall be blest.
Then to the Heav'n of Heav'ns he shall ascend
With victory, triumphing through the air
Over his foes and thine; there shall surprise
The serpent, Prince of Air, and drag in chains
Through all his realm, and there confounded leave;
Then enter into glory, and resume
His seat at God's right hand, exalted high
Above all names in Heav'n; and thence shall come,
When this world's dissolution shall be ripe,
With glory and power to judge both quick and dead,
To judge th' unfaithful dead, but to reward
His faithful, and receive them into bliss,
Whether in Heav'n or Earth, for then the Earth

Shall all be paradise, far happier place
'Than this of Eden, and far happier days. 465

So spake th' arch-angel Michaël, then paus'd,
As at the world's great period; and our sire
Replete with joy and wonder thus reply'd.

O Goodness infinite, Goodness immense!
That all this good of evil shall produce,
And evil turn to good; more wonderful
Than that which by creation first brought forth
Light out of darkness! full of doubt I stand,
Whether I should repent me now of sin
By me done and occasion'd, or rejoice 475
Much more, that much more good thereof shall spring,
'To God more glory, more good will to men
From God, and over wrath grace shall abound.
But say, if our Deliverer up to Heav'n
Must reascend, what will betide the few 480
His faithful, left among th' unfaithful herd,
The enemies of truth? who then shall guide
His people, who defend? will they not deal
Worse with his followers than with him they dealt?

Be sure they will, said th' angel; but from Heav'n
He to his own a Comforter will send, 486
The promise of the Father, who shall dwell
His Spirit within them, and the law of faith
Working through love, upon their hearts shall write,
To guide them in all truth, and also arm 490
With spiritual armour, able to resist

Satan's assaults, and quench his fiery darts,
What man can do against them, not afraid,
Though to the death, against such cruelties
With inward consolations recompens'd, 495
And oft supported so as shall amaze
Their proudest persecutors: for the Spirit
Pour'd first on his Apostles, whom he sends
To' evangelize the nations, then on all
Baptiz'd; shall them with wondrous gifts indue 500
To speak all tongues, and do all miracles,
As did their Lord before them. Thus they win
Great numbers of each nation to receive
With joy the tidings brought from Heav'n: at length
Their ministry perform'd, and race well run, 505
Their doctrine and their story written left;
They die; but in their room, as they forewarn,
Wolves shall succeed for teachers; grievous wolves,
Who all the sacred mysteries of Heav'n
To their own vile advantages shall turn 510
Of lucre and ambition, and the truth
With superstitions and traditions taint,
Left only in those written records pure,
Though not but by the Spirit understood.
Then shall they seek to' avail themselves of names,
Places, and titles, and with these to join 516
Secular power; though feigning still to act
By spiritual, to themselves appropriating
The Spirit of God, promis'd alike and given

To all believers; and from that pretence, 520
Spiritual laws by carnal power shall force
On every conscience; laws which none shall find
Left them inroll'd, or what the Spi'rit within
Shall on the heart ingrave. What will they then
But force the Spi'rit of Grace itself, and bind 525
His consort Liberty? what, but unbuild
His living temples, built by faith to stand,
Their own faith not another's? for on Earth
Who against faith and conscience can be heard
Infallible? yet many will presume: 530
Whence heavy persecution shall arise
On all who in the worship persevere
Of spi'rit and truth; the rest, far greater part,
Will deem in outward rites and specious forms
Religion satisfy'd; Truth shall retire 535
Bestuck with sland'rous darts, and works of faith
Rarely be found: so shall the world go on,
To good malignant, to bad men benign,
Under her own weight groaning, till the day
Appear of respiration to the just, 540
And vengeance to the wicked, at return
Of him so lately promis'd to thy aid
The Woman's Seed, obscurely then foretold,
Now amplier known thy Saviour and thy Lord,
Last in the clouds from Heav'n to be reveal'd 545
In glory of the Father, to dissolve
Satan with his perverted world, then raise

From the conflagrant mass, purg'd and refin'd,
New Heav'ns, new Earth, ages of endless date
Founded in righteousness and peace and love, 550
To bring forth fruits, joy and eternal bliss.

He ended; and thus Adam last reply'd.
How soon hath thy prediction, Seer blest,
Measur'd this transient world, the race of Time,
Till Time stand fix'd? beyond is all abyss, 555
Eternity, whose end no eye can reach.
Greatly instructed I shall hence depart,
Greatly in peace of thought, and have my fill
Of knowledge, what this vessel can contain;
Beyond which was my folly to aspire. 560
Henceforth I learn, that to obey is best,
And love with fear the only God, to walk
As in his presence, ever to observe
His providence, and on him sole depend,
Merciful over all his works, with good 565
Still overcoming evil, and by small
Accomplishing great things, by things deem'd weak
Subverting worldly strong, and worldly wise
By simply meek; that suffering for truth's sake
Is fortitude to highest victory, 570
And to the faithful death the gate of life;
Taught this by his example whom I now
Acknowledge my Redeemer ever blest.

To whom thus also th' angel last reply'd.
This having learn'd, thou hast attain'd the sum 575

Of wisdom; hope no high'er, though all the stars
Thou knew'st by name, and all th' ethereal powers,
All secrets of the deep, all Nature's works,
Or works of God in Heav'n, Air, Earth, or sea,
And all the riches of this world enjoy'dst, 580
And all the rule, one empire; only add
Deeds to thy knowledge answerable, add faith,
Add virtue, patience, temperance, add love,
By name to come call'd Charity, the soul
Of all the rest: then wilt thou not be loath 585
To leave this Paradise, but shalt possess
A paradise within thee, happier far.
Let us descend now therefore from this top
Of speculation; for the hour precise
Exacts our parting hence; and see the guards, 590
By me incamp'd on yonder hill, expect
Their motion, at whose front a flaming sword,
In signal of remove, waves fiercely round;
We may no longer stay: go, waken Eve;
Her also I with gentle dreams have calm'd 595
Portending good, and all her spi'rits compos'd
To meek submission: thou at season fit
Let her with thee partake what thou hast heard,
Chiefly what may concern her faith to know,
The great deliverance by her seed to come 600
(For by the woman's seed) on all mankind:
That ye may live, which will be many days,
Both in one faith unanimous though sad,

With cause for evils past, yet much more cheer'd
With meditation on the happy end. 605

He ended, and they both descend the hill;
Descended, Adam to the bower where Eve
Lay sleeping ran before, but found her wak'd;
And thus with words not sad she him receiv'd.

Whence thou return'st, and whither went'st, I know;
For God is also' in sleep, and dreams advise, 611
Which he hath sent propitious, some great good
Presaging, since with sorrow' and heart's distress
Wearied I fell asleep: but now lead on,
In me is no delay; with thee to go, 615
Is to stay here; without thee here to stay,
Is to go hence unwilling; thou to me
Art all things under Heav'n, all places thou,
Who for my wilful crime art banish'd hence.
This further consolation yet secure 620
I carry hence; though all by me is lost,
Such favor I unworthy am vouchsaf'd,
By me the promis'd Seed shall all restore.

So spake our mother Eve, and Adam heard
Well pleas'd, but answer'd not; for now too nigh 625
Th' arch-angel stood, and from the other hill
To their fix'd station, all in bright array
The cherubim descended; on the ground
Gliding meteorous, as evening mist
Ris'n from a river o'er the marsh glides, 630
And gathers ground fast at the lab'rer's heel

Homeward returning. High in front advanc'd
The brandish'd sword of God before them blaz'd
Fierce as a comet; which with torrid heat,
And vapor as the Lybian air adust, 635
Began to parch that temp'rate clime; whereat
In either hand the hast'ning angel caught
Our ling'ring Parents, and to the eastern gate
Led them direct, and down the cliff as fast
To the subjected plain; then disappear'd. 640
They looking back, all th' eastern side beheld
Of Paradise, so late their happy seat,
Wav'd over by that flaming brand, the gate
With dreadful faces throng'd and fiery arms:
Some natural tears they dropt, but wip'd them soon;
The world was all before them, where to chuse 646
Their place of rest, and Providence their guide:
They hand in hand, with wand'ring steps and slow,
Through Eden took their solitary way.

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END OF VOLUME SECOND.



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